STARS STRIPES.



1st AD soldiers training for next Iraq deployment



NCAA tournament brackets. regionals capsules

Pages 28-33

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005

Blueprint for Bagram

No longer just a city of tents, U.S. air base in Afghanistan transformed by plan for permanent structures Page 4



STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

50 Cent aims high with 'Massacre



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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox American Roundup	23 18-19
Classified	24-26
Comics	21-23
Crossword	22
Faces	17
Horoscope	
Letters	14
Opinion	15
Sports	
TV listings	16
Weather	20
Your Money	12

ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's slain relatives: Rambling and threatening letters from the man believed to be the killer of Judge Joan Lefkow's husband and mother prompted the Illinois Attorney General's office to investigate him six years ago, former state officials say

Investigators went to the Chicago home of Bart Ross in the winter of 1999 and created an extensive file on him, noting his paranoia and anger at the government and judiciary, said a former investigator and the office's one-time chief of investigations

Gov. Dean's records: More than two years after he left the governor's office to make his unsuccessful run for the presidency, the fight over public access to Howard Dean's gubernatorial records is coming before the Ver-mont Supreme Court in Montpelier.

Monday's hearing is on the state's appeal of a ruling that 86 boxes of records Dean sealed when he left office in 2003 are instead presumed to be open

Superior Court Judge Alan Cook ordered Dean and the state to identify each of the hundreds of thousands of documents in the boxes and say why each should be covered by executive privilege.

Al-Qaida terror plot: A northern Virginia man accused of joining al-Qaida and plotting with them to assassinate President Bush pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court to providing material support to terrorists and other charges.

An Aug. 22 trial date was scheduled for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, of Falls Church. He was indicted last month and charged with six counts that would allow a maximum prison term of 80 years.

Recruitment protests: Four anti-war protesters accused of spilling blood at a military recruiting station in New York will go on trial in federal court in May

U.S. District Magistrate Dave Peebles set tentative trial date of May 7 before U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy for the four Ithaca residents.

The protesters' case was turned over to federal prosecutors last summer after a Tompkins County Court jury deadlocked on

World

Pakistanis' rape sentences: Pakistan's Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the case of six men sentenced to death for raping a woman on orders from a village council, following two conflicting rulings by lower courts in the high-profile case.

The men were sentenced to death in 2002 after elders ordered the rape of Mukhtar Mai, 33, as punishment for her brother's alleged illicit affair with a woman from another family. But on March 3, the convictions of five of the men were overturned and the sixth reduced to life in prison, sparking outcry by human rights groups both in Pakistan and abroad.

The Federal Shariat Court, the nation's highest Islamic tribunal, threw out the acquittal Friday and reinstated the death sentences, a ruling the Supreme Court on Monday deemed unconstitutional

Milan air disaster: An Italian judge on



Democracy in Nepal: Riot police detain a student activist at a protest rally in Katmandu, Nepal, on Sunday, Demonstrators chanted against King Gyanendra, demanding restoration of democracy and withdrawal of a state of emergency since last month. As demonstrations continued Monday, police arrested dozens of protesters, while communist rebels threatened to plunge the Himalayan country deeper into crisis by pledging to step up attacks. More than 30 activists were arrested in Katmandu, where some 200 people rallied in the city's Ason market, "We want democracy, we want freedom," they chanted.

Monday convicted four people and acquitted three others in a 2001 plane crash that killed 118 people at Milan's Linate airport in Italy's worst civil aviation disaster, a lawyer for victims' relatives said.

The four were convicted of multiple manslaughter and sentenced to prison terms of up to four years and four months, said lawyer Alessandro Giorgetti. Three of the defendants were employees of Italy's air traffic control agency, ENAV, while one was an airport official, Giorgetti said.

Kosovo's future: The top leaders of Serbia-Montenegro said Monday they would soon define a detailed strategy on Kosovo ahead of talks expected later this year on the contested province's future

The meeting in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, included Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic, Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic, as well as Serbia's Presi-dent Boris Tadic, Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and others

War crimes tribunals: Kosovo's former prime minister pleaded not guilty Monday to a list of atrocities he allegedly committed as a commander of the Western-backed ethnic Albanian separatists, and a former Bosnian Serb paramilitary commander surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands — the 11th suspect to give himself up this year.

Ramush Haradinaj, who resigned last Wednesday as Kosovo's prime minister, re-sponded "not guilty" to each of 37 counts of war crimes allegedly committed in 1998.

Turkey earthquakes: A strong earth-quake shook eastern Turkey on Monday, damaging buildings and injuring at least 18 people two days after another quake in the region, authorities said. The earthquake with a preliminary magni-

tude of 5.9 was centered in rural Bingol province and struck at 3:55 a.m., toppling several buildings that had been badly damaged in Sat-urday's magnitude 5.7 temblor, officials said. Authorities said there no reports of any deaths, but at least 18 people were injured.

Deadly Philippines snacks: Laboratory tests show that 27 schoolchildren who died after eating cassava roots last week in the Philippines were poisoned with pesticide,

health experts said Monday.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit told a news conference that tests showed pesticide was likely the cause.

"This means that it's very much possible that the food was prepared in an environ-ment that was highly toxic and contaminated with chemical poisons and bacteria," Davrit said.

Asian bird flu precautions: Hong Kong's government said Monday it plans to step up precautions against bird flu and slash the local chicken population by half to 1.8 million, sparking outrage from the poultry industry.

Locals have long favored freshly slaugh-

tered chicken from live poultry outlets, but authorities want to clamp down on the practice to improve hygiene. The reduced chicken supply of 1.8 million

birds would allow officials to better control the birds if a bird flu outbreak occurs.

Violent G8 protests: About 150 protesters detained at the Group of Eight summit in northern Italy in 2001 were kicked, slapped, tripped, kneed in the groin and dragged by their hair, according to a report. Prosecutors in Genoa released a 534-page

report over the weekend detailing "inhuman" and "degrading" behavior by police of-ficers, corrections officers and doctors at the Bolzaneto police garrison, Italian media reported Sunday.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Mullen lists '05 priorities for naval forces

BY JASON CHUDY Stars and Strines

Naval Forces in Europe will be "looking to the south and east" in the coming year, expanding transformation and continuing to fight the global war on terrorism, according to Adm. Mike Mullen, the Naples, Italy-based force commander

Mullen recently released his 2005 priorities in a 10-page letter to European-based naval forces Mullen cites U.S. European Command's policy of "looking to the south and east," namely African and Eastern European nations.



USS der Emory S. Land deployed to western Africa's Gulf of Guinea. The trip was designed, according to a

Earlier

na, Sardin-

ia-based sub-

marine ten-

early in the guidance, saying that Navy news release, to improve conaval forces operation, and consequently secuwill play a rity, between the U.S. and counkev role in tries of that area. EUCOM's ef-

In his letter, Mullen lists working with the navies of "emerging partners." as he puts them, to maintain U.S. Navy supremacy by helping them to effectively use their smaller number of naval

"Unlike the land, the sea is largely ungoverned," he wrote. "No walls are constructed - no sentry posts stand - to prevent the movement of our adversaries or their weapons and material (by sea). We, along with the naval

forces of our allies and partners, must be those sentries.'

Mullen also cites plans for more active U.S. participation in NATO operations and the new NATO Response Force as two areas that will expand worldwide

security.

These partners include a Russian Navy that "operates, trains and communicates constructively with the United States and NATO naval forces," he wrote.

Russia recently sent ships to participate in Operation Active Endeavor, NATO's at-sea anti-terror mission. Active Endeavor includes NATO forces participating

in which naval forces board vessels suspected of supporting ter-

Although he wrote this guidance to cover the entire year, Mullen himself will most likely not be there to see it through. He was recently nominated to re-place Adm. Vern Clark as Chief of Naval Operations in Washing-

ton D.C. His replacement has not vet

The entire letter is available at: http://www.naveur.navy.mil/gui dance/

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

1st AD soldiers training for '06 deployment to Iraq

By STEVE MRAZ

Stare and Strings

Over the next three months about 3,000 soldiers from V Corps' 1st Armored Division will deploy for exercises at Hohenfels and Grafenwöhr training areas in southeast Germany to get soldiers ready for their next Iraq de-

This round of training was scheduled before 1st AD units returned from Iraq in July 2004. Exercise Iron Lightning will ready the units for their next trip downrange in early 2006, said Capt. Aaron Hatok, a 1st AD spok

"This is what the commander considers to be the capstone of their retraining in coming back from Iraq," Hatok said. "This from Iraq," Hatok said. "This training puts everything together in an environment where they'll be able to conduct full spectrum operations when they're com-

By full spectrum operations, Hatok refers to having units capable of conducting counter-insurgency operations as well as major combat operations.

About 3,000 1st AD troops recently returned from a similar two-month training exercise in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels.

The exercises encompass lessons that U.S. forces have learned



Second Brigade Combat Team Soldiers interact with a rowdy crowd during their training exercise. About 3.000 soldiers from V Corps' 1st Armored Division will deploy over the next three months for coming exercises at Hohenfels and Grafenwöhr training areas in Germany.

in Iraq, such as having traditional field artillery regiments act as task forces performing counter-insurgency operations, Hatok said. Those counter-insurgency operations include raids and patrols.

And much like combat deployments, the action begins as soon as the units depart, said Maj. Michael Indovina, 1st AD spokesman.

"It's 'game on' the minute you leave the back gate," Indovina

2nd Brigade Combat

Team, mainly composed of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regi-ment: 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment; and 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regi-ment, recently completed Exercise Iron Lightning.

The Division Artillery Combat Team, primarily from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regi-ment; and 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, are training now

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mrazs@mail.estripes.osd.mil



PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTOPHER STANIS/ILIS Armi A team of 2nd Brigade soldiers conduct a raid during their training

exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels.

Rota sailor convicted of rape

A Naval Station Rota, Spain-based sailor was convicted last week of raping a female sailor while on a group liberty trip in the summer of 2004 near Souda Bay, Greece, Navy officials reported.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward H. Campos, 41, also was found guilty of making a false statement to U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service officials about the incident, which took place in July at a hotel in Malia, Greece, Rota base public affairs officer Allie Freeman said.

Campos, an aviation structural mechanic with Rota's Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 2, was sentenced to 30 months confinement and a dishonorable discharge from the Navy, Freeman said.

Also in Rota, another sailor was arrested March 4 by Spanish police on suspicion of corruption of a minor, described as an American female Freeman said

The case was handed to Spanish authorities after an investigation initiated by the NCIS led to the sailor's off-base residence. she said

The accused sailor, whose name was not released by Rota officials, is scheduled to appear in Spanish court on Wednesday

Citizen awarded service medal

RAF MILDENHALL, England - A British citizen who worked nearly three decades at RAF Mildenhall was recently awarded the Imperial Service Medal during a ceremony.

Kenneth Palmer, who spent 27 years working for the 727th Air Mobility Squadron, was given the medal by Squadron Leader James Savage, the station commander, according to information from the 100th Air Refueling Wing public affairs office

Palmer, who retired in May 2004, performed a number of duties for the squadron over the years

The Imperial Service Medal was created in 1902 by King Edward VII to recognize faithful and meritorious service by members of the civil services.

U.S. Navy seizes drugs

KARACHI, Pakistan — A U.S. Navv ship in the Arabian Sea seized more than two tons of hashish from a ship off Pakistan's coast and detained nine suspected drug traffickers, a Pakistani official said

The USS Bunker Hill made the seizure on Sunday and the nine Pakistani suspects were handed over to local authorities, said Lt. Cmdr. Khawar Hasan Khan, a spokesman for the Maritime Security Agency.

Khan said the boat was carrying 6,000 nounds of hashish. It was seized near Gawadar, a coastal town about 300 miles west of Karachi.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, the U.S. Navy has regularly patrolled the Arabian Sea off the Pakistani coast to search for terror suspects,

he said. Separately, Pakistani paramilitary troops seized 1,552 pounds of hashish

after a shootout with suspected traffickers in southwestern Baluchistan province, said Lt. Col. Rizwan Malik, whose Frontier Corps made the drug haul. Malik said the seizure was made Sun-

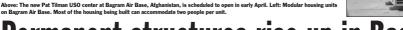
day night near the Afghan border and the suspected smugglers fled. No one was arrested and no injuries were reported.

Drug hauls are common in Pakistan, which straddles a route for narcotics from Afghanistan that are destined mostly for the lucrative European and Middle East markets.

From staff and wire reports







ermanent structures rise up in Ba tions group, said he's seen a great deal of

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Strings

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan -Whether you call it Bagram Air Base or Bagram airfield, the U.S. military facility in northeast Afghanistan is no longer just a glorified city of tents. Slowly, but steadily, a slew of construc-

tion projects is providing troops with better housing and improved work areas as well as a handful of

new shops for eating and entertainment. "We've been in ex-



For airmen, sol-diers and Marines on base, that means better living conditions, though no one is promising an overnight fix.

"In two to four years, we expect that everyone will be living in permanent hous-ing," said Army Lt. Col. Jim Anderson, commander of Facility Engineering Engineering Team-17 and the de facto director of public works on base

In fact, the founda tion for the the first structure designated for Army housing has heen laid

Its first occupants will likely be mem-bers of the 12th Aviation Brigade from Giebelstadt, Germany

Capt. Paul Salinas said the two-story facilities would contain 38 bedrooms, with the possibility of a single soldier or two soldiers sharing a room.

More construction projects in works

Afghanistan has vastly improved troops' quality of life.

Here are some of the projects built in the last year, under way or planned: ■ The first brick-and-mortar Army

housing is under construction. It has 38 bedrooms and indoor plumbing.

- Other such structures and modular metal, housing, are planned.
- A chain fence now encircles the perimeter, replacing concertina wire.
- Three dining facilities, two base/post exchanges, an Army hospital, offices and headquarter buildings have appeared in the last year.
- Burger King, an Italian pizzeria, two coffee shops and a Thai restaurant are serving troops now
- Popeyes, Dairy Queen and Orange They'll also have indoor plumbing - a

rarity on a base that has virtually no sewer

Lt. Col. Kurt Floyd, Anderson's deputy,

Trucks carry water to containers around

There's also the matter of clearing any

Most troops live in B-huts — though no

one on base knows what the "B" stands for

— 18-by-36-foot structures made of plywood designed to hold eight troops.

Some troops sleep on cots and some have

cations that can be up to a long city block

Air conditioning units are installed.

Toilets and showers are in centralized lo-

the base and haul away sewage from porta-

building sites for mines before any con-

said that fact alone has made developing a

blueprint for the base quite a challenge.

or water lines.

ble latrines

beds

away.

struction can begin.

Construction at the main U.S. base in Julius are scheduled to open in the next few months

- Besides the two exchanges, there are also a few shops selling local goods.
- Facilities for continuing education working out and staying in touch with those back home have also been built across the base in the last year.
- Construction on the Pat Tillman Center, which will house the USO and a cafe for those coming in or departing, is under-
- An additional runway is planned so more fighter jets can use the air base
- Airmen volunteers built a post office, recreation room and library on the Air Force side of the base
- Modern shower/latrine facilities are coming soon.

The Army's newer

and the

Local nationals will

options,

the

Floyd said the B-huts are an improveent on tents, but not as nice as the SEAhuts — which stands for Southeast Asia Huts - in places such as Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.



rials they're familiar with. Floyd said. Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Green, the top

There's now a chain fence with sensors along the entire perimeter, instead of just - Kent Harris concertina wire that encircled it a year

ago. At present, all living quarters and the ma-

He pointed to a road under construction

Another major accomplishment is the pe-

changes in his year in country.
"We went from tents to B-huts, tents to

permanent structures for DFACs (dining

facilities) and the pavement," he said.

Green referred to is a

narrow strip of side-

walk that runs paral-

lel to the main road

The road, which runs from the main

gate in the south to

the north perimeter,

won't always be the only paved road on

rimeter itself, Floyd said

base, Floyd said.

hase:

Drive.

Disney

that will follow the base perimeter.

The pavement that

jority of base facilities are either located off Disney Drive or on small, dirt roads stretching from it. On the Air Force side, Meyer said major

improvements are being made on the exist-ing runway, despite a constant, heavy influx of passengers and material.

New hangars are planned, but that wouldn't come until maintenance facilities and other offices are built.

Airmen also are living in crowded B-huts, she said

'We are not living in the best accommodations in the region and we're going to get

that changed," Meyer said. Anderson said construction might seem slow to some, but progress is being made rapidly across the base.

'I'd like to see some pictures in five

vears.

enlisted soldier in Bagram's base opera-

Kurds, Shiites work to form government

Both sides dealing to put a coalition team in power for opening of parliament March 16

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Kurdish leaders converged on Baghdad for talks Monday with majority Shities as both sides pressed to secure a deal to form a coalition government before the newly elected parliament meets for the first time this week.

Shiites and Kurds have been haggling over the makeup of the government since a new National Assembly was elected Jan. 30. The parliament meets Wednesday.

The political deal calls for Jalal Talabani, a Kurdish leader, to be named president Conservative Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the Shitte majority United Iraqi Alliance coalition would become prime minister.

"We're not interested in the government posts, we're more interested in Kurdistan and Iraq's interests," Talabani said in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast f Baghdad.

"We have made good progress.
We have a common understanding with the United Iraqi Alliance
that we should establish an Iraqi
state based on the principles of
federalism and respecting human
and women's rights."

Ali al-Dabagh of the clergy-backed alliance said he was of primistic a final deal would be reached before parliament meets Wednesday. But "if no agreement is reached, the first session of the national assembly will be held on Wednesday anyway," he said.

Outside the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, Kurdish leaders met Sunday to work on final details on a coalition government in accordance with a deal reached earlier this month with the United Iraqi

"The basic Kurdish demands are not about the Kurds only but the whole of Iraq, we are working for an Iraqi process — a coalition government that respects the constitution," said Interim Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, a

Interim Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, also a Kurd, said a Kurdish delegation was to meet with the alliance again Monday before the deal is announced, emphasizing that a final agreement

Talibani, Saleh and Zebari all headed to Baghdad from the north Monday.

The Kurds won 75 seats in the 275-member National Assembly. The alliance won 140 seats and needs Kurdish support to assemble the two-thirds majority to elect a president, who will then give a mandate to the prime minister.

Since 1991, Kurds enjoyed de facto independence, protected from Saddam Hussein's military by a U.S.-enforced no-fly zone. The Kurdish enclave since has

been off-limits to the Iraqi army. In violence Monday in northern Iraq, gunmen killed Hussam

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,513 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,153 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians. The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has reported 20 death; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia have reported one

- The latest deaths reported by the military:
- No deaths reported.

a suicide car bomb exploded in

- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- No identifications reported.

Hilal Sarsam, a cameraman for the Kurdish satellite channel Mohammed. The blast missed a KurdSat, witnesses in Mosul said.

Twelve miles south of Baghdad, ting a civilian vehicle instead and

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Joint Chiefs chairman in Iraq to see progress

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — The new commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq said Monday he is encouraged at progress in giving Iraqis more control over their own security and economic future.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner told Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that a portion of Mosul airport would soon be turned over to the Iraqis for use as a civilian airport and an economic development zone.

"This is one of the engines of change." Bergner said.

Myers arrived in Mosul on Monday morning aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo plane from Cairo, Egypt, where he met Sunday with his Egyptian military counterparts and with U.S. military officers.

It was Myers' first visit to Iraq since the Jan. 30 elections. He said before arriving that he hoped to see how much progress is being made in training and

equipping Iraqi security forces. Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, is mainly Sunni Arab and Kurdish.

Myers, who is the most senior American military officer, was accompanied on the flight to Mosul by his wife, Mary Jo Myers, who immediately departed for a visit elsewhere in the Persian Gulf.

wounding four people.

Myers had said Sunday in Cairo that about 142,000 Iraqi security forces are now trained, including police.

He said the key is improving their capability to deal with the violent insurgency so that American forces eventually can be withdrawn.

Also in Egypt, Myers said the United States will resume participating in the Bright Star war games in Egypt this year after scaling back in 2001 due to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and canceling in 2003 because of the Iraq war.

The difficulty of providing substantial numbers of U.S. ground forces for joint exercises with allies while the fighting continues in Iraq is not unique to Bright Star

It is one of the biggest multinational military exercises, with about 70,000 troops from about a dozen countries usually taking part.

Myers, on his first visit to Egypt in more than three years, met with Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Lt. Gen. Hamdi Moustafa Weheba, who is Myers' counterpart as Egypt's chief of defense.

Former Italian hostage undergoes surgery

ROME — The Italian journalist and former hostage in Iraq who was wounded by U.S. gunffre in Baghdad underwent surgery on her shoulder Monday, her second since the shooting, a Rome hospital said.

Giuliana Sgrena has been hospitalized in Rome's Celio military hospital since her return to Italy on March 5, a day after being released from a month's captivity and being mistakenly shot by U.S. troops on her way to Baghdad airport.

In Monday's operation, surgeons sutured muscles and tendons in her left shoulder, the hospital said in a bulletin. Sgrena is expected to be released in a few days, it said.

From The Associated Press



A dump truck pours gravel that the grader will then level at the end of a ceremony that marked the beginning of the resurfacing of the Panjshir-Parwan road near Charikar, Afghanistan. The Provincial Reconstruction Team Parwan stationed at Bagram and the U.S. Agency for International Development were instrumental in getting the work on the road done.

Repair of Afghan road draws praise and celebration

BY KENT HARRIS

CHARIKAR, Afghanistan resurfaced road generally doesn't draw much attention in many parts of the

world But in Afghanistan. where good roads are a rarity, a ceremony to announce plan to ungrade about 45 miles be-tween Panjshir and Parwan drew a



crowd, featuring the country's president and vice president, the U.S. ambassador and the senior U.S. military commander in Af-

ghanistan. Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalamay Khalilzad and a handful of local and national officials spoke under a pavilion that helped to keep away some of the intermittent rain Monday after-

"Afghanistan has come a long way, but it still has a long way to go." said Khalilzad, who will soon become the American ambassa-dor to Iraq. "The reconstruction needs of the country are great. Especially given the destruction of the last 25 years."

The road — currently a mix of

dirt along with a few rocks - will serve a number of purposes, Khalilzad said. He cited local industry, agriculture, tourism, coal min-ing, security and medical care as areas that would benefit.

The U.S. Agency for Interna-tional Development is funding the project, which is set to start soon. The work will cost about \$2.7 million, according to the As-

Karzai, speaking in Pashto, re-ceived a warm welcome from the crowd. He arrived and departed via a U.S. Chinook helicopter. American and Afghan forces provided heavy security for the event both on the ground and in the air

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the senior American commander in Afghanistan, said the road would likely be used by the U.S. military but said that



thing we do to improve the economy for the Afghans is a

"Every

for

Khalilzad benefit us," he said. "This whole area was just devastated by the Soviets and the Tali-ban."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Judge blocks U.S. from transferring 13 Yemenis

WASHINGTON - A federal judge has blocked the government from transferring 13 Yemenis from the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until a hearing is held on concerns the detainees may be mistreated in another country

The judge's ruling temporarily blocks any plans by the government to transfer the detainees to prisons in other countries

Lawyers are worried the government will try to move them to another country in order to "warehouse them in a prison, provide them with no legal process and, in effect, avoid the American court process altogether," said Marc Falkoff, an attorney for the detainees.

Ex-Sanchez aide in Iraq to take intelligence post

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - Two of the top officers who served under Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez in Iraq and were responsible for oversight of the units at Abu Ghraib detention facility at the time have been given new high-profile

Mai Gen Barbara Fast who served as chief of intelligence for Sanchez, will take command of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., on

Wednesday

Cleared of wrongdoing by military investigators, Fast will be handed the colors of the service's main intelligence training schoolhouse from Gen. Kevin Byrnes, the commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, according to Fort Huachuca spokesman Maj. Paul Karnaze.

The top post at the Intelligence Center has been vacant since Maj. Gen. James A. Marks left in June. Although Fast arrived as Marks was leaving with orders to take over the school, her assignment was put into a nine-month limbo as investigators looked into her role in Abu Ghraib scandal.

An investigation led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger released in August criticized Fast, finding that she "failed to advise (Sanchez) properly on the directives and policies

for inadequately monitoring CIA operations at the detention facili-

Since then, however, internal Army investigations have cleared Fast of any wrongdoing.

"She's maintained that she had a job to do and got on with," Karnaze said. While he said Fast will offer a brief news conference after assuming command, he does not expect her to entertain questions about Abu Ghraib.

"Her focus is on the future now," he said

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq, has been given a postion of greater responsibility as acting deputy commander of Army forces in Europe, directly under Gen. B.B. Bell, said Lt. Col. Jane Crichton, a U.S. Army Europe spokeswoman. The position is traditionally a three-star assignment requiring Senate approval.

During his yearlong tour in Iraq, Wojdakowski was responsible for overseeing V Corps' "sepaincluding the rate brigades," 800th Military Police Brigade and the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade. Both units were responsible for operations at Abu Ghraib and their commanders were harshly criticized for weak and ineffectual leadership that directly contributed to the abuses, according to several investigations.

Anthony Jones concluded that Wojdakowski along with Sanchez failed to ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interroga-tion operations," highlighting Wojdakowski's "direct oversight

of the two brigade commanders. Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski. commander of the 800th MP Brigade, who recently received a let-ter of reprimand for leadership failures, said Wojdakowski once told her "I don't care if we're holding 15,000 innocent civilians! We're winning the war!" according to a sworn statement by Karpinski obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through the Freedom of Information Act.

Both Woidakowski and Sanchez who remains commander of V Corps — are still under investigation

Until recently Wojdakowski had remained Sanchez's deputy in Germany, after returning from Iraq. According to the Army General Officer Management Office in Washington, Wojdakowski had been reassigned, serving as "spe-cial assistant" to Bell, a job that does not otherwise exist at that level.

In real terms, Crichton said, Wojdakowski now works as Bell's acting deputy and chief of staff. Traditionally either job is a career-enhancing position usually reserved for leaders being groomed for promotion.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at:

AFN Open Line

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Call with your questions: DSN 389-4590 or CIV (0) 621-46085-590 or email: openline@afneurope.net



Photos from the Front



ABOVE Sgt. John Diaz of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, pulls perimeter security during a patrol near the village of Omna, Afghanistan.

BELOW Army Cpl. Kevin Turner of the 307th Psychological Operations Company at Camp Tail, Iraq, distributes filers, key chains and other items to Iraqi children during a U.S. military patrol through an apartment complex in Sha'ab, nortweet of Sact Ctly. The leaflest, perired in Arabic, encouraged local citizens to take price in the neighborhoods and engage in community cleanup efforts.

Vince Little/Stars and Strines

RIGHT Army Spc. Angels Straukas, 26, of Valdosta, Ga., a member of the 127th Military Poloe Company, feeds a group of 2-month-old puppies during a stop at the Khadamyah Parkol Station in Baghdad, Iraq. The company, which has run daily patrols out of Forward Operating State Faloot for the last 11 morths, typically checks in on the litter while monitoring the city's northwest sector







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Trying to control Taiwan 🌋

China approves bill to OK use of force against Taipei

By CHRISTOPHER RODEEN The Associated Press

BEIJING - China's parliament enacted a law Monday authorizing force to stop rival Taiwan from pursuing formal independence, sparking outrage on the self-governing island and warnings that the measure would fuel regional tensions

The ceremonial National People's Congress passed the law de-spite U.S. appeals for restraint. It came a day after President Hu Jintao called on China's military to be ready for war and followed a 12.6 percent increase in the country's defense budget for 2005.

Premier Wen Jiabao said the mainland still wants to unite peacefully with the island and doesn't want to disrupt the status

"It is not targeted at the people of Taiwan, nor is it a war bill," Wen said at a news conference But he also warned outsiders not to get involved: "We do not wish to see foreign interference.

A Taiwanese government spokesman rejected the measure as a "serious provocation."

"It also brought emotional pain to the Taiwanese people, restricts Taiwan's freedom and democracv. and has a serious impact on security in the East-Asia region." said Joseph Wu, chairman of the

TOKYO - China's threat Monday to oppose Tai-

wanese independence with military force trig-gered a call for peaceful dialogue from Japan and

a discussion of Australia's treaty obligations

should a war break out. But Russia and Pakistan

peaceful solution, so there will not be any negative

impact," said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro

Koizumi, whose government recently declared a

diplomatic resolution of the Taiwan dispute as a

strategic objective with the United States

"I want the two sides to work hard toward a

supported Beijing's new legislation.



A demonstrator displays anti-China slogans outside the Legislature during a rally against China's anti-secession law on Monday in Taipei, Taiwan,

island's Mainland Affairs Council, which handles policy toward Beijing.

In a session broadcast on national television, the Chinese delegates burst into applause after the law was approved by a 2,896-0 vote, with two abstentions. The body usually votes overwhelmingly for Communist Party policies, but the emphatic result was meant to send a message of

Few nations supporting China's new law

the intensity of Beijing's sentiment on the issue

Taiwan and China split in 1949 Beijing has threatened repeatedly to attack if it tries to make its de facto independence perma-nent. The United States is Taiwan's biggest arms supplier and could be drawn into any conflict over the island

A leading Taiwanese lawmaker criticized the measure as a "savage law.

It shows that China "feels futile and doesn't know how to deal with Taiwan's democracy and freedom," said Chen Chin-jun, a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party.
The law says China would "em-

ploy nonpeaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and terri-torial integrity." It said such It said such steps could be taken if Taiwan declared formal independence, if "major incidents" occurred causing Taiwan to separate permanently from China, or if "possibilities for a peaceful reunification

should be completely exhausted." The law doesn't give details of what specific developments might trigger an attack. It adds no new threats or conditions, but it codifies the measures for authorizing military action.

Legislators said the law would send a message that Beijing's patience was wearing thin

An outbreak of hostilities would be a severe

blow to stability in East Asia, possibly prompting a response from the United States — which has

some 50,000 troops in Japan and 35,000 in South

Such a conflict could pin top U.S. allies in the area such as Japan and Australia between treaty

obligations to Washington and reluctance to alien

ate China, which is assuming a growing political

Russia on Monday reaffirmed Moscow's opposi-

tion to independence for Taiwan and said it consid-

ered the question of Taiwan an internal matter for

China, a top strategic partner for Russia in Asia

Korea - to defend Taiwan.

and economic role in the region.



A demonstrator bangs with a rock on the gate of the Palestinian Authority presidential compound as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas meets U.N Secretary-General Kofi Annan during a demonstration against Israel's separation barrier in Ramallah.

Israel approves final route for barrier wall

BY MARK LAVIE The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has approved the final route of a barrier around Jerusalem that will include the largest Jewish settlement in the West Bank on the Israeli side, officials said Monday, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is endangering peace efforts.

The decision means the barrier will encompass lands claimed by the Palestinians for a future state including traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, the intended Palestinian capital. The barrier also will include a chunk of the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem, to encompass a Jewish shrine, officials said.

Israel began building a separation barrier in the West Bank two years ago, saying its aim was to eep out Palestinian attackers.

Palestinians say Israel could have built the barrier on its own territory if the only concern was security. They say the real inten-tion was to grab West Bank land and draw a final border without waiting for a peace deal.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warned that approval of the Jerusalem segment could destroy efforts to revive peace talks.

"This is a policy of dictation and not negotiation." Erekat said. "This prejudges and prejudices the outcome of permanent status negotiations

The barrier - a complex of walls, fences, trenches, barbed wire and electronic devices — is expected to run about 425 miles. One third of the harrier has

been completed. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said after a meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that the United Nations is establishing a register of damages to Palestinian property and claims against Israel resulting

from the barrier construction. The U.N. General Assembly has passed a resolution against the barrier, and the U.N.'s world court said in an advisory ruling last year it was illegal and must be torn down.

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Iran: Nuclear energy needed

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI The Associated Press

TEHRAN Iran - Iran accused by the United States of using a nuclear energy program as a front to produce weapons, has repeatedly said its program is for peaceful purposes only, and that it needs nuclear power to generate enough electricity to remain self-sufficient

But the United States is disputing that claim, too, saying the Gulf nation does not need nuclear power for electricity because it has massive oil and gas reserves.

Iran gets set to host a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries this week.

In a region largely dependent on the West for vital military and in-

dustrial needs, energy-rich Iran has long stood out as a nearly self-sufficient nation that is exerting its efforts to produce nuclear energy despite stiff resistance from the international community

Iran's total recoverable oil reserves exceed 130 billion barrels, equal to 12 percent of the world's oil. It has an oil production capacity of 4.2 million barrels a day, making it the second biggest producer of oil in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Saudi Arabia.

It has also discovered new oil fields in recent years, including a new field announced last week Ramin, which is said to hold 855 million barrels

The U.S.-based Energy Infor-

that in 2003, Iran produced 3.9 million barrels of oil a day, exported 2.5 million of those and locally consumed 1.4 million.

However, the country disputes the idea that those reserves mean it should not seek nuclear power.

"America has more oil than Iran, and Russia has more gas than Iran and both of them have many nuclear power plants," said Asadollah Sabouri, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

Iran's Nuclear Energy Council has said the country must produce 7,000 megawatts of electricity through nuclear power plants by 2021 to meet its increasing ectricity demands. Iran's parlia ment has asked for the construction of 20 nuclear power plants.



Beirut sees new anti-Syria protest drawing thousands



A Lebanese opposition protester wears a hat with arrows referring to Syria getting out during a demonstration Monday in Martyrs Square, central Beirut, Lebanon.

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STARS STRIPES.

BY SAM F. GHATTAS

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence" and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut on Monday, the biggest protest yet in the oppositions duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men, women and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut — responding to an opposition call to demonstrate for the removal of Swrian troops from Lebanon.

"We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to demand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who traveled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon to take part. The assassination of former

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri exactly one month ago sparked the series of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. — the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Monday's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hundreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim militant group Hezbollah. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal comtinued Monday, with intelligence agents closing two offices in the northern towns of Amyoun and Deir Ammar, on the coastal road between the port of Tripoli and the Syrian border. Intelligence agents also dismantled two checkelligence and the state of the coastal port of the coastal road port of the coastal roa

Most intelligence offices, the widely resented arm through which Syria has controlled many aspects of Lebanese life, remained in northern and central Lebanon after Syrian troops moved east, closer to the Syrian border.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian withdrawal, the resignations of Lebanese security chiefs and an international investigation into Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination.

A senior Lebanese army officer said Sunday that 4,000 Syrian soldiers — more than a quarter of those serving in Lebanon just a week ago — have been brought back to Syria.

Zeina Karam of The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Karmila Wati, right, sits with Samsol Winda on Monday during their wedding ceremony inside a tent at a refugee camp in Mata le, Aceh Besar, Indonesia. The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 disaster.

Tsunami survivors find love in a refugee camp

BY MICHAEL CASEY The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia

Karmila Wati first noticed Samsol Winda's smile when he
checked her into a refugee camp
after their homeland was lashed
by Asia's deadly stumani. Winda
kept coming back to ensure Wati
and her family were getting relief
supplies and soon romance
bloomed

The couple — who both lost their homes and some relatives in the tsunami — married at a mosque on Monday and then held a party for fellow survivors under a leaky United Nations tarp in their survivors' camp.

The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to the faces of people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 disaster that killed more than 125,000 in their home province of Aceh and left some 400,000 homeless.

"This is so unbelievable. I never thought I'd meet my husband in a refugee camp," said Wati, 21, sitting next to her husband in their tent.

The newlyweds wore traditional Acehnese wedding clothes — Wati in a yellow dress with a golden, spiked crown while Winda, 25, wore a black and yellow coat, a green hat and a small sword known as a rencong at his side.

For the 50 guests the party was a brief respite from their problems and showed a glimmer of normalcy in the badly damaged provincial capital of Banda Aceh. Camp residents volunteered to help out.

"This ceremony helps us forget everything we have been through," said Dewi, 28, as she washed dishes from the party. It was gratifying to see someone happy for a day, said Dewi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.



Stars and Stripes is offering Free Classifieds to private party customers beginning March 1.

Ads may be submitted via post, fax, email, or in person.

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Dutch study: Euthanasia of infants underreported

The Associated Press

At least five mercy killings of newborns occur for every one reported to authorities in the Netherlands, doctors there reported just months after the first startling news of the controversial

While still very rare, euthanizing terminally ill newborns is more common than first believed, according to Dutch doctors, and other experts say it also occurs,

quietly, in other countries.
Since 1985, the Netherlands
has allowed euthanasia for competent adults.

In 2002, doctors at University Medical Center Groningen helped create the so-called Groningen protocol, a list of standards for performing and reporting euthanasia of newborns with serious, incurable deformities. The aim was to encourage more reporting and dis-

Two pediatricians at the hospital, Drs. Pieter J.J. Sauer and Eduard Verhagen, report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine that 22 mercy killings of newborns who otherwise

day's New England Journal of Medicine that 22 mercy killings of newborns who otherwise would have lingered in intensive care for years were reported to authorities from 1997 to 2004, about three each year. But national surveys of Dutch doctors have found 15 to 20 such cases a year.

Verhagen, who supports such euthanasia, said in an interview the doctors were allowed to review district attorneys' records on the 22 reported cases. None was prosecuted.

"We believe that all cases must be reported if the country is to prevent uncontrolled and unjustified euthanasia," the doctors

IN THE STATES

Ex-Bush adviser Hughes tapped for State post

BY ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Declaring the United States must do a "better job of engaging the Muslim world.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice intro duced former presidential adviser Karen Hughes Monday as the Bush administration's choice for a State Department post designed to change Islamic perceptions about

"I'm eager to listen and to learn," said Hughes, who, pending confirmation by the Senate, would become undersecretary of state for public diplomacy with the rank of ambassador.

Rice said the United States must do much more to counter the "hateful propaganda" that is so common in the Islamic world. She said Hughes believes strongly that the Unit-

ed States "must mobilize young people around the world to shatter the mistrust of past grievances and

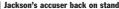
Wis. church shooting

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Dina Powell, an Egyptian-born former White House aide who is slated to be a top aide to Hughes

Hughes, who for years has had a major voice in crafting President Bush's domestic message, is a former counselor to the president who left the White House in 2002 to move her family back to Texas.

She is also a former Texas television reporter. She has continued to advise the president from her home in Austin. Although not a diplomat by training, Hughes had a hand in several foreign policy initiatives during Bush's first term, including efforts to promote democracy and improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan.

Hughes and Powell will focus on Bush's plan to spread democracy in the Middle East, an effort that has gained momentum with recent elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories.



SANTA MARIA, Calif. - Michael Jackson's attorney challenged the credibility of the pop star's accuser Monday by cross-examining him about similarities between a statement he testified Jackson made and a statement the boy had attributed to his grandmother.

Cross-examination of the 15-year-old who claims Jackson molested

him resumed after a three-day break in testimony.
Attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. recalled that the boy testified Thursday that Jackson told him that if men don't masturbate they might rape women. The attorney noted that the boy told sheriff's investigators in an interview that his grandmother had told him the same thing.

Jackson arrived on time Monday, his first court appearance since a failure to appear last week triggered a threat of arrest by the judge and a race to the courthouse in his pajama bottoms from a hospital where he was said to be receiving treatment for a back injury

He acknowledged chanting fans by turning, waving and flashing a

Iger tapped to replace Eisner as Disney CEO

LOS ANGELES - Michael Eisner, the longtime CEO of The Walt Disney Co., will step down a year earlier than expected, handing over the reins to Robert Iger and ending a tumultuous stint atop the entertainment giant

Iger, 54, the firm's current president and chief operating officer, was named to succeed Eisner as chief executive. He will assume his new role Oct. 1. and will co-lead the company with Eisner during the transition, Disney's board said.

He inherits the company as it continues an earnings recovery, opens new theme park in Hong Kong, enjoys a ratings boost at its ailing ABC network and builds on success of its dominant ESPN cable net-

Love Stars and Stripes'

Answers sought after

JULIET WILLIAMS The Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. - It was just another weekend service for churchgoers in this Milwaukee suburb when, without warning, they began to be gunned down by one of their own.

Now victims' relatives are struggling to keep their faith and find answers.

"This is a totally senseless thing," said Jeff Miller, whose 44-year-old brother, Gerald, died shielding an elderly woman who survived, "He was a great guy, He didn't deserve to die.

Terry Ratzmann, a churchgoer known for sharing homegrown vegetables with his neighbors, walked into the room and police said he shot 22 bullets from a 9 mm handgun within a minute.

None of those who knew him exnected Ratzmann to be violent. though some said he had grappled with depression. Neighbors said he was quiet and devout, that he liked to tinker about his house and garden. He would even release the chipmunks caught in traps he set in his yard.

But Saturday, the Sabbath for the Living Church of God, Ratzmann turned on worshippers. When it was over, seven people, including the church's minister and his teenage son, were killed, and four others, including the minister's wife, were wounded. Ratzmann, 44, then shot himself; he sat slumped against the back wall with four rounds left in his gun, police said

"He wasn't a dark guy. He was average Joe," said Shane Colwell, a neighbor who knew Ratzmann for about a decade. "It's not like he ever pushed his beliefs on any-

The 44-year-old computer technician lived with his mother and sister about two miles from the



Amber Herman cries Sunday outside a hotel in Brookfield, Wis., where a gunman opened fire Saturday at a church service, killing seven people and himself.

suburban Milwaukee hotel where police say he opened fire during service. Ratzmann regularly attended the gatherings.

Member Chandra Frazier said on TV's "Good Morning America" that he had walked out of a recent sermon "sort of in a huff.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Monday the Feb. 26 sermon that upset Ratzmann had made the point that people's prob-

Charles Bryce, the national church's director of administration, said Monday he was told the sermon was about "basic Christian living" but was trying to get more information about what specifically unset Ratzmann

Although he left no suicide note and gave no explanation for the killings, investigators said Ratzmann was on the verge of losing his job. Agents who searched Ratzmann's home found three computers containing many encrypted files. They also found a

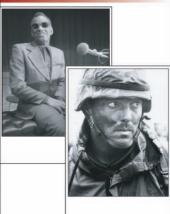


lems are of their own making.

'That's something we just don't know. I don't know whether we'll ever know," Bryce said.

rifle and ammunition.

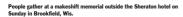




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Tuesday, March 15, 2005 - STARS AND STRIPES - PAGE 11

Atlanta hostage recalls 72-hour ordeal

BY ELIOTT C. MCLAUGHLIN The Associated Press

ATLANTA — As the Fulton County Courthouse reopened Monday — nearly 72 hours after a judge, deputy and court stenographer were shot dead there Friady — accounts emerged detailing the ordeal of the woman whom the alleged guman held hostage before she notified police of his whereabouts.

The woman, Ashley Smith, came forward Sunday saying Brian Nichols let her go after they bonded while discussing God, family, pancakes and the massive

going on outside her apartment.

apartment.
Authorities said the rampage started when Nichols overpowered a sheriff's deputy who was

transporting

Nichols for the resumption of his trial on rape and other charges. Nichols could appear in court as early as Tuesday, authorities said.



Smith was hailed as a hero for the way she handled herself after Nichols confronted her in the parking lot of her apartment when she returned from a store

around 2 a.m. Saturday.

"She acted very cool and levelheaded," said Gwinnett County Police Officer Darren Moloney. "It was an absolutely best-case scenario that happened, a complete opposite of what you expected to happen."

Over the course of the night, Nichols untied Smith, and some of the fear lessened as they talked. Nichols told Smith he felt like "he was already dead," but Smith urged him to consider the fact that he was still alive a "miracle."

"I believe God brought him to my door." Smith said Sunday.

"You're here in my apartment for some reason," she told him, saying he might be destined to be caught and to spread the word of God to fellow prisoners.

God to fellow prisoners.

After Smith left the apartment
and called police, officers soon
surrounded her suburban apartment complex and Nichols gave
up peacefully, waving a white
towel in surrender.

"I honestly think when I looked at him that he didn't want to do it anymore," Smith said.

Choking back tears Sunday, she said she told Nichols that her husband died four years ago and if he hurt her, her little girl wouldn't have a mother or father. Smith's attorney, Josh Archer, said her husband died in her arms after being stabbed. Smith's 5-year-old daughter was not at the apartment during the ordeal.

The two talked about the Bible and she handed him photos of her family. When morning came, Smith said, Nichols was "overwhelmed" when she made him pancakes with real butter. He told her he "just wanted some normalness to his life," she said.

Gang members arrested

WASHINGTON — More than 100 alleged members of the violent Honduran street gang MS-13 have been arrested in a nationwide sweep, authorities said Monday.

Using information from local and state law enforcement agencies, federal agents charged 103 members of the Mara Sal-vartucha, or MS-13, gang with a range of criminal and immigration charges. The arrests came in the New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Newark, Miami and Dallas metropolitan areas over the last several weeks.

Officials said MS-13 is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States. The gang has carried out beheadings and grenade attacks in Central America and is known to hack its enemies with machetes in cities along the East Coast in the United States.

The arrests are the result of a new "Operation Community Shield" nationwide sting by the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to target violent gangs.

Post office reopens

HAMILTON, N.J. — The New Jersey post office that handled anthrax-laced letters reopened Monday morning, nearly 3½ years after the deadly mailings that further heightened the nation's fears in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001. terrore attacks.

The opening had more the air of a gala than a normal day at a post office. Officials were on hand with cake, and the low-slung building was decorated with balloops

The post office was closed on Oct. 18, 2001, after NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, two U.S. senators and the offices of the New York Post received anthrax-laced letters that went through Hamilton.



and casualty insurance are subject to underwriting. Product availability may vary in some fereign locations due to local laws and restrictions. Some restrictions app dialing is not available from Bosnia, Turkey, Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain or Egypt. A3797-1104. ©2004 USAA. All rights reserved.

From The Associated Press



Volunteer pilots train to disarm a potential hijacker during in a weapon retention class at the Federal Law

Gun-in-the-cockpit program progress upsetting to pilots

BY LESLIE MILLER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - While the pace of training and deployment of armed pilots on commercial flights has picked up, supporters of the program say the Bush ad-ministration still is making it unnecessarily difficult for crews to take guns into the cockpit.

Pilots monitoring the program estimate between 4.000 and 4.500 have been trained and deputized to carry guns since the Federal Flight Deck Officer program began April 2003. That is about three times as many as a year ago, yet a fraction of the 95,000 pilots flying for U.S. airlines

David Mackett, president of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, a group formed to lobby for guns in the cockpit, said tens of thousands of his colleagues are interested in the program.

'We have an armed pilots program that's arming very few pilots," said Mackett, who hasn't signed up because of the way the program is run. He said many others won't join for the same reason.

Mackett contends the Transportation Security Administration isn't moving to get substantially more pilots trained to carry guns because it has never really wanted the program.

TSA spokesman Mark Hatfield

disnuted that saving agency chief David Stone fully backs the effort and that procedures have been changed to more quickly get pilots into the program.

"I've got a pipeline with a cou-ple of thousand applicants and we're running two full classes a week," Hatfield said. The TSA can train about 50 pilots per class.

Last year, Congress failed to pass a bill that would speed the application and training process allow pilots to carry guns in holsters and let those among them with military or law enforcement backgrounds carry guns immedi-

ately.

Mackett said the pilots will try

again this year. **EXCHANGE RATES**

Bahrain (Dinar). British pound ... Canada (Dollar) Denmark (Krone) Egypt (Pound).... Kuwait (Dinar) Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso) Saudi Arabia (Riyal). Singapore (Dollar) South Korea (Won) Switzerland (Franc) Thailand (Baht) Turkey (New Lira) (Military exchang Thalland (Bahy) Millary exchange rates are those available to customers are those available to customers at milliary bank. Millary exchange rates are those available to customers at milliary bank of raban, South Rorsa, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (e., purchasing pittal pounds in Germany), check with your local milliary bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-foreign.

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

count rate eral funds market rate 30-year bond4.83 Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Report emphasizes the vulnerability of aviation security

By LARA JAKES JORDAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The nation's aviation system remains vulnerable to attacks by al-Qaida and other terrorists who may be targeting noncommercial aircraft and helicopters, according to a

government report. But officials said the report by the Homeland Security Department and the FBI concludes that commercial airlines also remain susceptible to attack, despite billions of dollars worth of security investments. Moreover, members of al-Oaida are believed to be examining and testing U.S. security systems for weaknesses, officials

The confidential report, dated Feb. 25, reflects what officials have long said: that beefing up security in one sector would inevitably prompt terrorists to target other areas that might not be under the same level of scrutiny.

However, the report, drafts of which have been circulating since late last year, is the first to pull the intelligence together in a single package, officials said.

It was distributed to state local and private sector officials who deal with counterterrorism concerns, said Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse

"We have made dramatic improvements to security in all components of the aviation industry over the course of the past three years," Roehrkasse said.

counterterrorism official said helicopters were singled out as potential targets in intelligence that surfaced last August. That in-telligence also led Homeland Security to raise the terror alert level in Washington, New York and northern New Jersey to protect financial institutions there.

More than \$12 billion has been spent on explosive detectors, ar-mored cockpit doors, screeners, air marshals and other aviation security systems since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

President Bush has proposed giving the Transportation Security Administration \$5.6 billion in 2006 - \$2 billion of which for airline passenger screening and \$1.45 billion for airline baggage screening.

But a report by congressional investigators in December found that TSA "has primarily focused on strengthening the security of commercial aviation." That report noted that TSA doesn't understand the risks posed by small private planes, fails to issue meaning ful threat information to general aviation airports and can't make sure charter airlines and flight schools comply with security regulations

Officials said that the thousands of general aviation airports which host recreational planes. business jets, helicopters and other kinds of noncommercial aircraft - must all have security measures that are equivalent to TSA mandates at commercial air-

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Stomping out gas myths

NEW YORK - Gas prices are forecast to rise further, and the media are filled with tips on how to save on gas and get better mileage from your vehicle.

Unfortunately, with the good tips and tricks comes misinformation that can actually cost you time and money. So says Mark A. Baxter, director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He offers this advice on two less-than-useful tricks:

Myth: Once you've filled your tank, twist the gas pump nozzle and tip up the hose to drain any last remnants of gasoline into your tank.

Believers claim this can put as much as an extra half-cup in vour tank

Truth: "I don't think it's worth the value for your time and effort, but it is a few drips of gasoline," Baxter says. However, don't expect to get anywhere near a half-cup.

Myth: Buying your gasoline in the early morning or in the evening when it is cooler outside will save you money. Gas is moderately denser in cold tempera-

Proponents of this moneysaver say that because gas pumps measure fuel volume rather than density, you'll get more for your money if you buy fuel when it's cool outside.

Truth: "You're not going to see much difference if you fill up on a 50-degree day or if you fill up on an 80-degree day," Baxter says.

That's because at filling stations, the gas is kept under-ground where the temperature is fairly stable

Following this myth can even cost you time and money. Many people fuel up on their way to or from work, so you'll end up spending more time in line, idling your engine as you wait and wasting gas.

Former Democratic leader Daschle joins Washington lobbying firm as adviser

BY CARSON WALKER The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle plans to put his 26 years of experience in Congress to work at a Washington, D.C., law firm as a public policy adviser.

Daschle, who lost a re-election bid in November to Republican John Thune, said he won't lobby for Alston & Bird LLP, but will ad vise its clients on topics with which he's familiar.

"I want to continue my involvement in the public policy issues that I care a great deal about. Those issues include energy, Native Americans, health care, international trade, agriculture and technology," he said Sunday in a telephone interview from his Washington home

One of things he'll do is counsel clients on how to work through legal and regulatory hurdles in Washington and internationally, he said

Daschle joins former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, who is already in the company's legislative and public policy group. Dole, the 1996 Republican presidential nomi-

nee, said in a statement that he looks forward to working with Daschle.

"Tom is the consummate public servant, and while we may have differed on some political issues. I look forward to working together at Alston & Bird, as we tap his unique knowledge of public policy to serve the firm's clients. Dole said.

Daschle, 57, was first elected to the House in 1978 and served four terms before moving to the Senate, where he was named minority leader in 1994. He was majority leader starting in June 2001, but again became minority leader after Democrats lost their slim majority in the 2002 elec-

Daschle lost the nation's highest-profile and most expensive Senate race in November by 4,500 votes to Thune. The hard-fought contest cost a combined \$33.8 million, according to Federal Election Commission fig-

Alston & Byrd has 700 attorneys with offices in Atlanta, Char-lotte, New York and Washington. Daschle's appointment was off cial Monday, but it will be several weeks before he starts work



A piece of paradise

..Ravello combines ancient villas, cobbled walks and coastal views



Take Autostrada A3, Napoli-Reggio Calabria, toward Salerno for about 28 miles, then take exit for Vietri sul Mare. Follow state roadway SS 18 toward Tirrena Inferiore, and then SS 163 toward Amalfitana. Ravello is about 15 miles from Vietri sul Mare. Follow blue signs for Ravello.

Public transportation is available on blue SITA buses that run from Salerno to Amalfi, Amalfi to Sorrento and Amalfi to Ravello. Ferries also connect some principal towns on the coast. For times and cost, call the company, Travelmar, at (+39) 089-872-950.



Times

Villas and shops are open year-round. Popular tourist destination Villa Rufolo offers chamber music from March to October.



Costs

A portion of the highway between Naples and Ravello has a 1.40-euro toll. Parking is available on an hourly basis in a designated lot at the foot of the town entrance, or on the street. The Circumvessubana toolal train to Sorrento, about an advantage of the control of the con



Dining in Ravello is limited to about a half-dozen small Italian restaurants and pizzerias around the main square and on a few side streets.



Information

More information is available on the Internet at www.
ravello.it/aziendaturismo.
There is a tourist office in the
main square of Piazza Duomo;
phone (+39) 089-857096.

— SANDRA JONTZ

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Strings

f there's a heaven on Earth, it might be the town of Ravello perched high on the famous Italian Amalfi

"Breathtaking."

That was the sole word visitor Daniela Mazzarino, 34, could whisper one bitterly cold after-noon in January as she scanned the brilliant blue of the Mediter-nanean Sea while standing on the Terrazza dell'Infinito — the "terace of infinity". The terrace is race of infinity. The terrace is mark hotel, where in 1938, Hollywood diva Greta Garbo would rendezvous with Russian lover Leopold Stokowski.

"It's as if you're in another world," Mazzarino said after regaining a bit of composure from a dizzyingly spectacular perch about 1,100 feet above sea level.

The village of Ravello is a mosaic of ancient villas, cobbled narrow walkways, picturesque churches, quaint restaurants and mid- to high-priced souvenir and art shops that decorate a mountainside of the Amalfi Coast, a mountain that seems to jut out straight from the Gulf of Salerno.

It is said to have captured the imagination of composer Richard Wagner, who wrote his "Parsifal" opera here. During the summer months, the Villa Rufolo hosts Wagnerian concerts in its gardens, and from March through October, offers guests chamber music concerts.

Historians have traced the origins of Ravello to the fourth and fifth centuries, when Roman noblemen sought sanctuary from barbarians by flocking to the mountainous region along the coast. Today it has a population of about 2,000.

The drive, roughly an hour from Naval Support Activity





PHOTOS BY SANDI

The brilliant blue of the Mediterranean Sea as seen from the dizzying height of the "Terrazza dell'Infinito" ("terrace of infinity") at the Villa Cimbrone in Ravello, Italy.



Naples, is not for those quick to

get queasy.
The two-lane road presents
drivers with nerve-wracking
hairpin bends. Motorcyclists
seem to pass with little warning
at warp speeds. In the summer,
the narrow roadways can get
congested.

Visitors to Ravello can see Roman and medieval architecture, churches and gardens in addition to the stunning panoramas. At the village's heart is an impressive cathedral of white marble, the Duomo, built in 1086.

But the ancient town is not wheelchair or stroller friendly, making many parts of the city inaccessible to those who cannot visit on foot.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail. estripes.osd.mil



Above: Ravello seems to inspire romance, as a couple walk arm-in-arm through the Villa Cimbrone, a landmark hotel where, in 1938, Hollywood diva Greta Garbo rendezvoused with her Russian lover, Leopold Stokowski.

Above left: A sign written in English stands as testimony to the number of tourists who visit Ravello.

STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Women in combat arms

Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe's reply of "Nuts!" could be appropriate to a de mand of surrender to the political feminists surrounding an all-male Bastogne. Contemplating female enlistment into com bat arms military occupational specialties cannot be compared to entrance to an all-male tree fort, or to women's suffrage or to denial in climbing the cornorate ladder. It's assumed that since female soldiers are under fire while serving in Iraq, they must be ready for combat arms.

The contemporary operational environment in which we are waging war in Iraq is the reason female soldiers are respond ing under fire. The argument that since a woman can shoot a weapon and can be used in a low-intensity conflict operation such as cordon-and-search (assisting in female search) is not a legitimate premise for women to be inserted into combat arms. Justification cannot be argued, just as one cannot say: "Women play football; women play NFL."

Premeditated, in-your-face killing is more complex. Combat arms is a cohesive and synchronized determination to close in on the enemy in order to kill them. The psychologies of women and men has been proved to conflict disastrously in this arena, and is the reality of our genders. We cannot jeopardize lives while experimenting with the concept of equality in the workforce. If total equality is to be contemplated in the Army, all women must complete the male Army physical fitness test standard. Period.

Combat units must have strict and concentrated cohesion to bring swift destruction; it doesn't need the added warfare. CA recruitment cannot be justified with emotional political correctness. Draft or enlistment, we cannot liberalize the lethal reality of our combat arms with situational foreplay.

Sgt. 1st Class Philip Stouder

Let women train for infantry

I was glad to see in the Feb. 2 column by Dan Thomasson, "Parties should unite to increase aid to war widows," that changes are being considered, but I'd like to call vour attention to an often overlooked fact of life in our modern army -- there are women in it! So, if a woman is killed, does her widower get anything? I quote Thomasson, "Plus there is a limited monthly sti-pend for wives." Just wives, Dan?

Which brings me to my second point: A male soldier, happily at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, not Iraq, as I am, sent a letter detailing his opinion of how women could not be in the infantry. Did he ever stop to consider that women are just written off and never even given a chance to train for the infantry alongside their male counterparts

I admit there are women who shouldn't or can't become infantry soldiers, but

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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there are many men who can't hack it, either

When is our Army going to begin practicing the equality it so vigorously preaches to repressive Islamic dictatorships? How can we tell the Iraqis and Afghans to let their women have equal rights when ours don't? Why are the "good ole boys" so afraid to let women even try to become infantry or other combat arms soldiers? Sgt. Molly Martin

Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraa

Cook answers infantry's call

In response to all the letters and articles that I have had the time to read since redeploving to Kuwait. I see that cooks are frequently mentioned when talking about who is qualified for the Close Combat Badge. I understand that the new CCB should be given to those whose military occupational specialties are combat arms and who daily go out of the wire to specifically find and engage the enemy and protect coalition forces and local nationals

But those of us without a job over here, thanks to the civilian contractors, had to be put to use somewhere. My platoon was made up of cooks, mechanics, fuelers and a few other guys and was attached to a tank company, that was also assuming the job of infantry. We conducted daily combat patrols, cordon and searches, and security. Almost no one complained about our new jobs and excitedly undertook our missions. We came in contact multiple times from roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. We engaged and destroyed the enemy.

I need no badge to show off how I feel about what my soldiers and I did in Iraq the past year. Nothing has ever made me prouder in the military than telling a soldier to take the day off and him refusing to because he wanted to go out on patrol. Or when your chain of command tells your platoon that it will always be a part of the company because of the things we did and went through together. No badge or award will ever accomplish that.

The brotherhood and camaraderie that formed within the platoon and squads will last longer and mean more then any award that we could receive. As for this cook, I loved my new role so much that I'm reclassing to infantry, not for the badges but for the experience that you know only when you face the excitement and fear of the battlefield and live to tell your stories

with your brothers after the fact.

Sgt. Christopher Greenfield En route home with the 1st Cavalry

'Doonesbury' should stay

This is in response to "Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap' " (letter, Feb. 28) in which the writer described "Doonesbury" as, let me get this right, "that left-wing-subcutaneous-slandering piece-of-crap comic by Trudeau." I assume that the right-wing comic Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley causes equal offense. All Stars and Stripes is doing is being fair and balanced.

The men and women of the military have a diverse set of views as evidenced, for example, by the recent debate over the separation of church and state in letters to the editor. Stars and Stripes provides a great service to all of us, and it is not the job of the paper to simply be a mouthpiece for certain political viewpoints. As in any decent democracy, allowing

for a free and open press is part of the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. Maybe we should set the example by keeping our own publications free and open to divergent sets of views, even the comic strips. Lt. i.g. Seth Nve

Bagram, Afghanistan

Think of this letter instead

To all U.S. servicemembers serving overseas: In response to those recent devastating letters you received from those silly, naive children ("GI baffled by letters from N.Y. 6th-graders," article, Feb. 24, Mideast edition; "Camp Casey GI baffled by letters from sixth-graders," Europe edition), please know that this is not the majority attitude of the American people I know, love and respect. My husband, a New York City firefighter, and I think and know that you — all of you — are the Unit-ed States' biggest, bravest and finest heroes. I can't lie, I want you all home happy and healthy with your loved ones. But we also know how desperately you are needed overseas and we support and pray for you every day.

Please try to see that these children are not the culprits of this blasphemy; they were obviously coached by their adult parents whose stupid, uneducated attitudes poisoned their children's minds. Just try and comfort yourselves with

this small prayer, when you put your young, brave minds to sleep at night: Forgive them. Lord, for they know not what they say.

God bless all of you.

Elisa Sweeney New York

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

Wars take turns, and reactions affect results

BY THEODORE L. GATCHEL The Providence (R.I.) Journal

ike the tides the fortunes of war tend to ebb and flow over the course of a conflict. How a nation deals with the setbacks that inevitably occur in war tells much about that nation's people and whether they have what it takes to prevail over a determined enemy.

The Battle of the Bulge, in World War II, and the 1968 communist Tet offensive, in Vietnam, illustrate how two different generations of Americans dealt with such

As Christmas 1944 approached in Europe, the Allies were general ly optimistic. American forces had reached the German border, and speculation about how long the war would last was a popular pastime

On the morning of Dec. 16, Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, the su-preme commander of the Western Allies in Europe, received a letter from British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery requesting permission to take Christmas leave. In the letter was a reminder from Montgomery of a bet made earlier that the war would be over by Christmas

The front running through Belgium's Ardennes Forest was a particularly quiet one.

The quiet was shattered on the same day that Eisenhower received this letter by a German attack that drove deep enough into the Allied lines to produce the "bulge" that gave the resulting battle its name. The New York Times called the setback "the worst since the fall of the Philippines."

That characterization was no exaggeration. Overcoming the initial shock, the Allies eventually condefeated it. But doing so cost the Americans roughly 80,000 casualties, including 8,000 killed and 20,000 captured or missing.

Much of the public's attention became focused on the Belgian town of Bastogne, an important road junction that the U.S. Army's 101st Airhorne Division and other units held against heavy German pressure until relieved, on Dec. 26. When the American commander answered a German ultimatum to surrender with the terse renly 'Nuts!," Bastogne became a symbol of heroic resistance.

Perhaps as a result, Americans managed to maintain their faith in ultimate victory. The New York Times complained about the delaved release of news from the front, and noted command problems that had let the Germans achieve surprise - but it also cautioned Americans not to sec-ond-guess commanders on the spot while the battle continued.

The paper also raised the possibility that the German attack might even prove to be fortuitous by having offered the Allies the chance to inflict more damage on the Germans more quickly than would otherwise have been possible. When the fighting ended, the Americans had no doubt that the Allies had won a decisive victory.

Twenty-four years after the Battle of the Bulge, Americans react-ed in a very different way to a surprise enemy attack that had some remarkable similarities to the German one of 1944.

As the Vietnamese lunar New Year celebration, called Tet, ap-proached in 1968, the overall situation appeared to be calm. The communists had agreed to a truce, and a large percentage of South Vietnamese soldiers were allowed to



GERARD F. FORKEN/Stars and St

South Vietnamese troops help a wounded buddy in a street fight near the presidential palace in Saigon on Feb. 3, 1968, during the Tet Offensive.

take leave. Earlier, however, Gen Earle Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Detroit audience that although steady progress was being made in Vietnam the communists might still try something "similar to the desperate effort of the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge

On Jan. 31, 1968, the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies did just what Wheeler had feared by launching a series of attacks on cities throughout Vietnam. Overcoming the shock of having been caught off guard. South Vietnamese and allied forces recovered and went on the offensive. Much of the world's attention became riveted on a group of U.S. Marines and Vietnamese rangers who were besieged in an isolated outpost near



Two U.S. soldiers in the snow and dirt east of Bastogne, Belgium, man .50-caliber machine guns as they keep an eye out for German troops during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945.

Yet instead of being regarded as a heroic stand, as Bastogne had been. Khe Sanh was characterized by most of the media as a military saster caused by bad judgment Interminable comparisons were made to the 1954 French defeat at a similar outpost at Dien Bien Phu. and every effort was made to cast the battle in a bad light Second-guessing by the media

was rampant and often wrong. Peter Braestrup, Saigon bureau chief for The Washington Post dur-ing Tet, later noted, "Rarely has contemporary crisis-journalism turned out, in retrospect, to have veered so widely from reality.

In reality, the communists suffered a decisive defeat. They failed to achieve any of their military or

the Laotian border named Khe political goals, and the fighting destroyed whatever remained of the Viet Cong — forcing the commu-nists to rely increasingly on regular forces from North Vietnam.

But despite that reality, many Americans came to see Tet as a de feat that produced a corresponding loss of support for the war. The cause for that misperception re-mains the subject of debate, but it raises an important question for When a setback occurs in the

war on terrorism - and such a setback is almost inevitable - will Americans react as they did in 1944, or as they did in 1968?

Marine Col. Theodore L. Gatchel (re-tired) is a military historian and profes-sor of operations at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. The views here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the college, the Navy or the Defense Department.

ongress must ensure bill isn't morally bankrupt

BY DALE MCFEATTERS Scripps Howard

he bankruptcy bill that just passed the Senate and is assured of House passage is being described as "the most sweeping" and "most significant change" in bankruptcy laws in 27 years and as a political victory for President

A political victory for Bush and the credit-card and banking industries, yes. But as for "sweeping" and "significant," only time

A preliminary glance at the final product suggests that it is considerably more modest than "sweeping." And how controversial could a measure be that passed the fractious Senate 74-25? It would affect, according to bankruptcy experts, somewhere between 30,000 and 210,000 people a year, largely by forcing them to opt for Ch 13 bankruptcy, where some repayment is re-quired, rather than Chapter 7, which erases debts altogether. And it does underscore a fundamental commercial principle that good-faith loans should be repaid

The terms of the bill are hardly Dickensian. In essence, bankruptcy filers with incomes above their state's median income and with the wherewithal that a judge determines would allow them to repay \$100 a

month over five years - a total of \$6,000 would have to file under Chapter 13. The bill also tightens a loophole that al-

lowed potential bankrupts to shield their assets by buying extravagant homes in states like Florida and Texas. The "homestead exemption" has been tightened to \$125,000 for

property bought within 30 months of filing. The bill shields retirement benefits up to \$1 million, but it also ordains that child sup-

port, alimony, student loans and most tax obligations cannot be wiped out by filing for bankruptcy There is a large loophole for residents of

states that sanction asset-protection trusts, trusts shielded from the bankruptcy laws set up by people who have some expectation of being sued, such as doctors, but increasingly by executives wary of the new corporate liability laws

Once having made this bankruptcy bill law. Congress has an obligation of its own. Lawmakers must be vigilant to see that the act is not an insurance policy for reckless lenders. And while Congress can't do much about [some causes of bankruptcy, such as] divorce or job loss, it can try to ensure that [another cause], severe illness, is not an automatic economic catastrophe for low- and middle-income families

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://mysfin.dockmedia.cod.mil/											
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	TUESDAY, MARCH 15 (AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)			
9:00	Stanley "Woodpecker Woes"	Movie * * 5 "What Makes a	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball	Tennis Pacific Life Open Day 1. From Indian Wells, Calif.		Jeopardy!			
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur "What Is That Thing?"	Family" (2001) Brooke Shields. A lesbian fights her late lover's	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	(Taped)	Sweet Dreams Best for Less	Headline News ESPNews			
10:00 10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	parents for child custody.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O Relly Factor		Stripped Stripped	Pacific Report			
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie * * * "Finding	(100) duraning Engine	Smallville "Covenant"	Nightline	ESPNews	E News	Smallville "Covenant"			
11:30	Stanley	Forrester" (2000, Drama)	(:17) General Hospital	1	• • •	Tennis Pacific Life Open Day	The King of Queens				
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Sean Connery, Rob Brown, F. Murray Abraham.	Headline News	Movie *** "The Hours"	Fox and Friends First	From Indian Wells, Calif. (Taped)	That '70s Show	Movie ***: "The Hours"			
12:30	The Wiggles	M	Judge Judy	(2002, Drama) Meryl Streep. Three women in different eras		(rapeu)	Girlfriends "Into the Woods" Charmed "Size Matters"	(2002, Drama) Meryl Streep. Three women in different eras			
13:00 13:30	Bob the Builder Dragon Tales (EI)	Movie * * "Au Pair" (1999) Gregory Harrison. A new nanny	Today Hairstyles.	suffer emotional crises.	American Morning	SportsCenter	Charmed Size Matters	suffer emotional crises.			
14:00	Blue's Clues	must deal with her employer's		Pacific Report		Sportscenter	Strong Medicine	Pacific Report			
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	spoiled children.		The Tonight Show With Jay	i	NBA Basketball Milwaukee	,	The Tonight Show With Jay			
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:46) Movie * * 5 "King	l Spy	Leno		Bucks at Miami Heat. From the AmericanAirlines Arena in Mia-	Any Day Now "Nothing Person-	Leno			
15:30	Growing Pains "Slice of Life"	Kong" (1976) Jeff Bridges. An oil monul seeks to exploit a	Animaniacs	Late Show With David Letter- man		mi. (Taped)	al"	Late Show With David Letter- man			
16:00 16:30	Pokémon "Navel Maneuvers" Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	monstrous ape in New York.	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (El)	The Late Late Show With	FOX News		Third Watch "Childhood Memo- ries"	The Late Late Show With			
17:00	Doug (EI)	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Deep Vote"	Craig Ferguson			
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Dennis Miller				Dennis Miller			
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews		FOX News		The Simpsons				
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olber-			Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann			
19:00	The Proud Family (EI) The Amanda Show	Movie ** "Shaft" (2000, Action) Samuel L. Jackson. A	Smallville "Covenant"	Mann Access Hollywood	DaySide With Linda Vester	ESPNews	Star Trek: Enterprise "The For- cotten"	Access Hollywood			
19:30	Everwood "Daddy's Little Girl"	former cop vows to bring a	Movie ★★★% "The Hours"	Headline News	FOX News	MLB Preseason Baseball Los	CSI; Miami "Ashes to Ashes"	Headline News			
20:00		murderous racist to justice.	(2002, Drama) Meryl Streep.	Entertainment Studios.com	1	Angeles Angels of Anaheim at	70,000,000,000	Entertainment Studios.com			
21:00	Sister, Sister	(8:47) Movie * * * "Out of	Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Chicago White Sox. From Tuc- son Electric Park in Tucson	Mark Twain (Part 4 of 4)	The Hot List			
21:30	Sister, Sister	Sight" (1998) George Clooney. A U.S. marshal falls for an es-		Headline News		Ariz. (Live)		Headline News			
22:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	caped con she must capture.	Headline News The Tonight Show With Jay	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends Seinfeld "The Shower Head"	Good Morning America			
22:30	Touched by an Angel 'Moni-	Movie ★★% "Hollow Man"	Leno		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart				
23:30	ca's Bad Day'	(2000) Kevin Bacon.	Late Show-Letterman		Connected. Coast to Coast	Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date				
20.00				WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1	6, 2005						
00:00	Doug "Doug's Hot Dog" (EI)	(11:00) Movie * * 5 "Hollow	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame			
00:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Man" (2000) Kevin Bacon.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House			
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(:07) Movie ** "Opposing Force" (1986) Tom Skerritt. A	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Blue's Clues Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight CBS Evening News	College Basketball NCAA Tournament Opening Round	Star Trek: Enterprise "The For- cotten"	Blue's Clues Wheel of Fortune			
1:30 2:00	Rugrats The Proud Family (EI)	deranged survival camp leader	DC 78110B110CG. (CNC)	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	Game Teams TBA. From	CSI: Miami "Ashes to Ashes"	Dr. Phil			
2:30	The Amanda Show	wages real war on recruits.			Lehrer	Dayton, Ohio. (Live)	OGI. IIIIGIIII 7GIIGG IG7GIIGG				
3:00	Everwood "Daddy's Little Girl"	Movie ★ ★ 5 "Shaft" (2000,	Sports	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball NIT Tour-	Mark Twain (Part 4 of 4)	Oprah Winfrey			
3:30		Action) Samuel L. Jackson. A former cop yows to bring a				nament First Round Teams TBA. (Live)					
4:00	Sister, Sister Sister, Sister	murderous racist to justice.		NBC Nightly News Judge Judy	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Tare (Dio)	Friends Seinfeld "The Shower Head"	NBC Nightly News			
4:30 5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(4:47) Movie * * * "Out of	ABC World News Tonight	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood			
5:30	1	Sight" (1998) George Clooney. A LLS marshal falls for an es-	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light	1	·	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light			
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	caped con she must capture.	CBS Evening News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Fastbreak	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital			
6:30	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	The Entertainers	NBC Nightly News			Winkelman Good Fishing NASCAR Nation	TIPical Mary Ellen The View				
7:00 7:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Bob the Builder	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NASCAH Nation	i ne view	Sylvester & Tweety Buzz Lightyear of Star			
8:00	The Wiggles "Wiggle Opera"	Behind the Scenes	Blue's Clues (EI)	SpongeBob SquarePants	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	SpongeBob SquarePants			
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Batman Beyond "Shriek"	Tavis Smiley	1		Batman Beyond "Shriek"			
9:00	Stanley "Mockingbird Scat"	Movie ** "Blue Moon" (1999, Drama) Sharon Lawrence, Inter-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Tennis Pacific Life Open Day 3. From Indian Wells, Calif.	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!			
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	prama) Snaron Lawrence. Inter- nal and external pressures strain	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	W . A.W. W . F	3. From Indian Wells, Calif. (Taped)	Food 911	Headline News ESPNews			
10:00	Arthur "My Music Rules." Reading Rainbow (El)	a couple's marriage.	(9:46) Opran Winfrey (:35) Guiding Light	ESPNews Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	ľ	Sensible Chic Fashion File	Pacific Report			
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie ***	i	That '70s Show	Nightline	SportsCenter	E! News Live	That '70s Show			
11:30	Stanley	"Marathon Man" (1976, Sus- nense) Dustin Hoffman Lau-	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	Nightly Business Report	1	The King of Queens	Arrested Development			
12:00	Dora the Explorer The beach.	rence Olivier, Roy Scheider.	Headline News	The Casino	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Dallas Mayer-	That '70s Show	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Drunk driver.			
12:30	The Wiggles Bob the Builder	Movie ★★% "Beach Blanket	Judge Judy Today Spring skirts.	The District "The Voice Inside"	American Morning	icks. From American Airlines	Girffriends Charmed "A Knight to Remem-	Lost "All the Best Cowboys			
13:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Bingo" (1965, Comedy)	rousy opining annia.	Signer The voice IIISIDE	Anna sali morrilly	Center in Dallas. (Taped)	ber'	Have Daddy Issues"			
14:00	Blue's Clues	Frankie Avalon, Annette Funi-		Pacific Report	i		Strong Medicine	Pacific Report			
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	cello, Deborah Walley.		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	SportsCenter	1 -	The Tonight Show With Jay			
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie ** * "Rudy" (1993) Sean Astin, Ned Beatty.	Sylvester & Tweety	Leno	l		Any Day Now "Life"	Leno			
15:30	Growing Pains Pokémon "Snack Attack"	A working-class teen dreams of	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter- man	FOX News		Third Watch "Act Brave"	Late Show With David Letter-			
16:00 16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)	admission to Notre Dame.	SpongeBob SquarePants Batman Beyond "Shriek"	The Late Late Show With	I OX INSWS	SportsCenter	THE WATCH ACT DISNE	The Late Late Show With			
17:00	Doug "Doug's in Debt!" (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Di-	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News		Law & Order "Who Let the	Craig Ferguson			
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	ane Lane" Diane Lane.	Headline News	Dennis Miller	1	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series UAW-Daimler Chrysler	Dogs Out"	Dennis Miller			
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Coming Attractions	ESPNews		FOX News	Series UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400. From Las Vegas Motor	The Simpsons				
18:30	Rugrats Even Stevens "Thin Ice"	Entertainment Tonight Movie * * "The Mexican"	Headline News That '70's Show	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	Speedway in Las Vegas.	Everybody Loves Raymond American Idol	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann			
19:00	Kenan & Kel "Fenced In"	(2001, Adventure) Brad Pitt. A	Arrested Development	Access Hollywood	DaySide With Linus rester	(Taped)	American Idol	Access Hollywood			
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Dead Undes	mob lackey goes to Mexico to	Extreme Makeover: Home	Headline News	FOX News	1	The O.C. "Pilot"	Headline News			
20:30	and Vegetables"	retrieve a priceless antique.	Edition Drunk driver.	Entertainment Studios.com	1			Entertainment Studios.com			
21:00	Degrassi: Next	(:15) Movie ** "Drop Dead	Lost "All the Best Cowboys	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tennis Pacific Life Open	National Geographic Explorer	The Hot List			
21:30	Degrassi: Next	Gorgeous" (1999) Kirsten Dun- st. Minnesota beauty queens	Have Daddy Issues" Headline News	Headline News		Women's Quarterfinals. From Indian Wells. Calif. (Taped)	Friends	Headline News			
22:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	compete for a coveted title.	Headline News The Tonight Show With Jay	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	mono, com. (napeu)	Friends Seinfeld "The Doll"	Good Morning America			
23:00	Touched by an Angel "A	Movie ** * "Rush Hour"	Leno		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart				
23:30	Clown's Prayer"	(1998, Action) Jackie Chan.	Late Show-Letterman	1		Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	1			
	•	•	-	•	•		•	-			



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FACES

No strings attached

Even with no guitar, British rock band Keane is winning devoted fans on both sides of the pond

> BY ROSS RAIHALA Knight Ridder Newspapers

he British trio Keane has experienced the sort of year most young bands would kill for,

selling millions of records in Europe, winning two Brit Awards (England's answer to the Grammys) and performing to sellout crowds around the world But what made the group, which seems set to reach

Coldplay-like heights of fame, really nervous? Appear-ing on "Saturday Night Live" last month alongside guest host Paris Hilton.

"It was scary, probably the most nerve-wracking thing we've had to do," said lead singer Tom Chaplin during a phone in-terview from Boston.

"After a year of tour ing, we're used to playing shows. But with something like that, the expectation is so great. The show is an institution in the States

Keane lived up to the challenge and won over a whole new audience of fans in the process, play-

ing their insanely melodic singles "Everybody's Changing" and "Somewhere Only We Know," a song that got its first blush of exposure in a Victoria's Se cret commercial Soon after the "SNL" performance, Keane's debut

disc, "Hopes and Fears," re-entered the Billboard Top 100, with sales headed toward the million mark. But what about the really important stuff? What's Paris Hilton like?

"She was cool," said Chaplin. "Weirdly enough, she seemed a lot more intelligent and down to earth than

nered band. "Hopes and Fears" is filled with bright choruses, hummable melodies and an overall sense of nice that has earned Keane plenty of suspicious glanc-

Swank fights New Zealand customs fine

Hilary Swank, the Oscar-winning star of fight flick "Mil-

lion Dollar Baby," is going toe-to-toe with New Zealand au-

curately, the lack of one.
The band formed in 1997 and kicked around unsuc cessfully for years. In 2002, they lost their guitar play

cessituity for years. In 2002, may lost meir guiar piay-er and figured they'd have a go without a six-string. "It really was incredibly liberating," Chaplin said. "It forced us to try and change things up a bit. And we've found we can get the songs across in a much more clear way that suits the feel of the music much

Tim Rice-Oxley's pianos and synthesizers form the backbone of Keane's music, with live drummer Richard Hughes keeping the songs rooted in rock, rather than dance, music. The

pared-back instrumentation also focuses attention on Chaplin's angelic, lilting vo-"Every guitar sound has been done to death," Chaplin said. "The piano is a blank can-

vas. And we've been experimenting with pedals and amps to mess things up a bit. It's really excit-

While Keane has already connected

American audiences, they're not content to remain a passing fancy in this

"Hopes and Fears" produced four hit singles in England, and they're, ahem, keen to replicate that suc-cess here. Chaplin said his band plans to spend much of the year touring the States.

"Whatever band you talk about, like U2 or Radiohead, there's an electricity about what they do," Chaplin

really connect witi a true emotional experience. We as we're willing to

"I appreciate that they made it authentic," Bradley said in a telephone interview with the Yakima Herald-Repub-

He said he was disappointed that he had not talked directly to Brooks, but still thinks Brooks is the greatest entertainer of all time

Perlman to pay fine for contribution

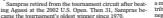
Actress Rhea Perlman has agreed to a fine against the DeVito Family Trust for failing to file a major donor report on a \$10,000 contribution to Californians for Schwarze-

negger in 2003 The state's Fair Political Practices Commission said it would fine the trust \$400 for failing to disclose political donations during the 2003 guber-

natorial recall campaign that put Arnold Schwarzenegger in office.

Perlman, who is married to actor and director Danny DeVito, agreed to





Brooks takes care of his fan

One Garth Brooks fan who spent \$1,200 to buy a guitar

Sampras, wife expecting second child

Former tennis star Pete Sampras and his wife are ex-

Sampras and actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras are due

The couple married in September 2000. Their son, Chris-

In 1990, Sampras beat rival Andre Agassi in the final to

become, at 19, the youngest champion in tournament histo-

to have the child this fall, their publicist, Deborah Grimes,

signed by the country singer — only to find out it was a fake — has received an authentic signature.

Toby Bradley, 34, a long-haul trucker, put the guitar up for auction on eBay in January hoping to raise \$50,000 for victims of the South Asian tsunami.

Brooks' attorney saw the eBay listing and asked Bradley to send it to him so the signature could be verified. It turned out to be fake, but Brooks signed the guitar and

LEVERY guitar sound has been done to death. The piano is a blank canvas, And we've

been experimenting with pedals and amps to mess things up a bit. It's

Lead singer

she comes across." It's a polite, mannered answer from a polite, man-"They have songs that es from rock's credibility police And then there's Keane's lead guitarist. Or, more ac-British rock group Keane has made an impact on the American music

thorities over a \$150 fine for bringing fruit into the country, local media reported Sunday Swank was fined in January for failing to declare an apple and an orange in her luggage when she arrived at Auckland International Airport, The Sunday Star-Times newspaper reported "It's a pretty standard practice to issue an instant fine for a biosecurity said Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry spokesman William

Minchin Thousands of visitors arriving in New Zealand each year are fined on the spot for not declaring products such as

fruit, which cannot be imported into New Zealand, and hundreds contest the fines, Minchin said. New Zealand is largely free of pests, which cause billions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock in other parts of the world and has strict quarantine guidelines. Swank has instructed lawyers to appear in court next week to contest the fine, the paper reported

the fine in January on behalf of the Perlman could not be reached for comment. Stories and photos from The Associated Pres-

really exciting. 77

Tom Chaplin

necting a second child.

said in a statement

tian Sampras, is 2

charts after appearing on "Saturday Night Live." Lead singer Tom Chaplin, right, said appearing on "SNL" was "nerve-wracking."

PAGE 18 STARS AND S

Special treatment

AR LITTLE ROCK —
Patients traveling to Arkansas for medical treatment will receive assistance under a program announced at the Little Rock National Airport. The patients will be provided with language translation if they need it, as well as help with baggage and transportation to hotels and hospitals, officials said.

Kindergarten optional

NH CONCORD — The state Board of Education dropped a plan to require all school districts to offer kindergarten by 2007. Lawmakers said the rule would usurp their authority and force a state program on local districts. New Hampshire is the last state without universal kindergarten; about 15 communities don't offer it

Limiting cold medicine

MN ST. PAUL — The Minneso-ta Senate unanimously passed a bill restricting the sale of cold medicines containing ingredi-ents used to make methamphetamine

The bill would require Sudafed and Actifed to be kept behind pharmacy counters.

Customers would have to sign for the drugs and would be allowed to buy only two packages at a time.

Fishing-season dispute

FL MADEIRA BEACH — Friends and family of a missing commercial fisherman say a two-week gap between the seasons for amberjack and grouper created an atmosphere in which fishermen felt a need to take more risks

Friends say the restrictions cost Michael Costello and a crewman their lives. Restrictions are aimed at replenishing dwindling stocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

Obscenity case dropped

KS ABILENE — An obscenity case brought against the Lion's Den Adult Superstore has been dismissed for technical rea-sons. A Dickinson County grand returned a 29-count indictment alleging the store promoted obscenity, but a judge ruled the petition was improperly filled out.

New bishop named

BURLINGTON — Monsignor Salvatore Matano, a longtime Rhode Island priest who has worked the last four years at the Vatican's Washington office was selected by Pope John Paul II to be Vermont's new bishop

He will take over in August.

Budget unbalanced

WA OLYMPIA — Some state lawmakers want to borrow against future payments from a tobacco settlement to help balance the budget. Gov. Christine Gregoire, who negotiated the deal when she was attorney general, is against that

The settlement is expected to bring the state \$4 billion over the next 25 years for health services.

Boaters sue state

HONOLULU — An organization of boaters who faced eviction from the Ala Wai Harbor



Shaken baby bill

HOUSTON - The deaths of four Texas infants within one week could intensify efforts to approve legislation to educate parents about

shaken baby syndrome. Police in Houston are investigating the deaths of an 8-month-old girl, a 5-month old boy and a 7-month-old boy. Investigators think their injuries may stem from being shaken aggressively.

In Austin, the father of a 5-month-old boy who died was arrested after being accused of shaking the child to death

I think we are going to continue, unfortunately, to have this probsaid state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr D. Brownsville "But the more we educate people, the more we train people to do the right thing with their child as they leave the hospital, obviously the better it will

Jailer plays a prank

AR PARAGOULD — A jailer gave a layative to an inmate who had requested cold medicine. then taunted the man as he suffered severe diarrhea authorities

Johnnie Dallas Pruett, 27, was fired and charged with battery in the March 1 incident involving 19-year-old Darryl R. Bartlett.

Sheriff's Capt. Jamie Martin said after Bartlett asked for cold medicine, Pruett brought him three pink pills and a cup of water. The inmate took the pills, and Pruett began laughing and showed him a box of over-the-counter laxative pills.

Bartlett said that after 90 minutes, he developed severe stomach pains, vomited and had severe diarrhea He said Pruett taunted him throughout the night and asked if he needed a diaper.

Film scene nearly deadly

GA SAVANNAH — A college student was seriously injured while acting out a hanging for a film project.

Daryl Goins and other students were making a movie for class at his home. The script had been approved by a professor, but Goins, 20, allegedly decided to change the

"There was a suicide scene at the end, and he changed the technique," Geoffrey Jowett, dean of students for Savannah College of Art and Design, told the Savannah Morning News. "It was a hanging, an accident based on the stunt

Details were sketchy, but during the scene Goins somehow hit his head. Jowett said other students gave him CPR. He was hospitalized in serious condition.

Police have the video and are investigating. The school is reviewing whether to pursue disciplinary action.

Goins was enrolled in an Introduction to Video class. Students at the college are required to take a safety course before filming, sign a contract confirming they have read all safety regulations and have scripts approved by a faculty member



Becoming an American Nguyen Ngo, of Vietnam awaits the start of a swearing-in ceremony at the Bush presidential library in College Station, Texas. Nearly 50 U.S. servicemembers were sworn in as II.S. citizane



Colorful block party Wil Flores, right, and Belisario Loza shop at one of the many vendors at the annual "Calle Ocho" block party in the Little Havana area



Paige, a 10-year-old bald A fine, feathered friend eagle, poses for visitors, in background from left, Debbie LaFreniere and Sharon Bostrom at the Florida Audubon Birds of Prey Center in Maitland, Fla. The center is celebrating its 25th year with an open house.



AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

The mariners who live aboard

their vessels allege they were im-properly evicted from the

short-term boat slins at the harbor

under a proposed deal between the

state and the Waikiki Yacht Club.

The group calls itself the "Dis-placed Boaters of Ala Wai Har-

Group spokesman Jud Lohmey-

er said he knew the boat slips were

not permanent, but he believes the

tice to move.

In February, the state gave

about a dozen boaters three days to

vacate their slips. Eight of the boat-

ers have sued seeking to stay put.

and a judge issued a preliminary in-

junction stopping the evictions

NY NEW YORK — The city

never-ending battle against rats: a

federally funded institute to teach the craft of rodent eradication.

Pest Control Academy were an-

nounced in a hearing before the

City Council's health committee

The academy will train extermina-

tors from the Health Department

and other city agencies, said Edgar Butts, an assistant Health Depart-

A three-year, \$600,000 grant

ment commissioner.

Plans for the Rodent Integrated

has a new weapon in its

until the case is resolved

City opens rat school

should have given more no-

is suing the state

state

Nap time

One of Jeff King's dogs takes a rest during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race at the Gravling, Alaska, checkpoint.

RIPES · MARCH 15, 2005



Fire-breather

| Daniel Echeverria, 44, poses next to his fire-breathing motorcycle in Daytona Beach, Fla. Echeverria shigh fire-breathing to hike named Excalibur by hand in his barn in Argentina. Echeverria shipped his creation to Florida for Bike Week.



Luck 0' the Irish Melanie Weimer of Scottsdale, Pa.,
dresses as a leprechaum while
marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh.



Snow fun
Terry Humphrey reads a
newspaper as he waits outside
amid falling snow for Ron's Barber
Shop to open for business in
Bellingham. Mass.



Enjoying spring break

Crystal Stevenson, 22, from the University of Indiana, relaxes on the beach at South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, such that South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, and the South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, such that South Padre Island, Texas, such that South Padre Island, Texas

Guilty plea in murder

CAMDEN — A second man pleaded guilty to the murder of a woman who was abducted from a parts-and-ride lot on ther way home from work in 2001. Marcus Toliver, 25, admitted killing Christine Eberle, 27, an accountant who lived in Washington Township and worked in Philadelphia. He agreed to the same 43-year prison sentence faced by Ryshaone Thomas, 26, who pleaded guilty in January.

More training for nurses

AR LITTLE ROCK — University of Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles persuaded legislators to back a bill that would expand training for certified nurses aides in caring for Abreimer's patients. The Senate committee endorsed the measure, which has passed in the House. Broyles told the panel of his grief during the years he cared for his wife, Barbara, who died last fall after bartling Abrheimer's.

Hospital closing

PAILADELPHIA — Women's Medical Hospital in
Philadelphia is closing its doors.
There isn't enough patient revenue
to support and maintain the operation of the 50-bed acute-care facility, said Dr. Nancy Pickering, chief
executive officer. In recent years,
the 500 employees endured hospital name changes, cutbacks, the collapse of the Allegheny Health System in 1998 and the threatened closure by the former owner, Tenet
Healthcare.

Art law repealed

SD PIERRE — A 16-year-old law requiring state funding for works of art in new public buildings and those being remodeled will be repealed under legislation signed by Gov. Mike Rounds. The 1989 law said the Legislature must set aside an art allowance equal to 1 percent of the cost of those projects. The stipulation was never followed.

End of streetcar line?

wa SEATTLE — The city may shut down its waterfront streetcar line so the Seattle Art Museum can build a sculpture park at the north end of the line where its maintenance barn is located. The streetcar is a popular tourist attraction that carries 400,000 people a year. It runs between Myrtle Edwards Park and Pioneer Souard Poineer Souards Park and Pioneer Souards.

City Council recall

McALESTER — Petitions seeking the recall of City Council members Michael Dawk-ins and Louis Smitherman were turned in to the city clerk. They served on the council when contracts and budgets with leave buy-back provisions for former City Manager Randy Green were approved. Green received \$579,500 for unused leave over a five-year period. The FBI is investigating the case.

Backup budget

IN MASHVILLE — A backup budget plan released by Gov. Phil Bredesen would either slash education spending by \$268 million or end pharmacy benefits for people in the state public health care program. The alternative budget is on the table in case Bredesen's primary plan, which presupposes savings through cuts in the TennCare program, is held up in court.

Wrong number

MADISON — When the state's Division of Motor Vehicles sent notices to 25,000 motorists to renew their registration, they made a tiny mistake.

The telephone number printed

on the postcards was one digit off and instead connected callers to "the nation's most informative psychic connection service, helping you with love, money, health and romantic encounters."

The Division of Motor Vehicles

spent \$1,500 sending letters to truckers after someone called about the typo, said Jane Zarada, director of the state Bureau of Vehicle Services.

Golden Gate suicides

SAN FRANCISCO — A proposal to study a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is expected to get the go-ahead despite mixed reactions from the public and serious questions over fi-

The 19 bridge district directors will be asked to take the first step and commit \$2 million toward environmental studies and preliminary design work.

In addition to that \$2 million, \$15 million to \$25 million will be needed to build a barrier, so the money question will probably be a major part of the discussion.

An estimated 1,300 people have jumped from the bridge to their deaths since it was built in 1937, giving the West's signature span additional renown as the top suicide landmark in the world.

Fortunate to be alive

TN TOWNSEND — Four college freshmen on a spring-break excursion to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park said that they felt lucky to be alive after they were snowed in at a shelter on the Appalachian Trail.

Matthew Schultz, 19, Ivan Saldarriaga, 19, Ryne McCall, 19, and Bryan Hendrick, 19, were rescued by park rangers and a National Guard helicopter after spending two wet, freezing nights huddled in a trail shelter.

Schultz was airlifted to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville as a precautionary measure after falling victim to hypothermia. His three companions walked off the trail a few hours later with words of warning for anyone planning a trip into the mountains.

"We weren't prepared," Hendrick said. "We may have done a few things right, but we did a lot of things wrong. We were lucky."

Stories and photos from wire services



78/51 •

Benelux: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid-40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the 40s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow. Highs in the mid to upper 30s.
Wednesday lows in the mid-20s to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the mid-40s to

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

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w moon Mar 05	First qtr. 17 Mar 05	Full moon 25 Mar 05	Last qtr. 02 Apr 05

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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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Horoscope

In these final days of the sun's visit in Pisces, a solar cycle through the zodiac ends. The wrapping-up process causes us to account for the good, bad and ugly of the last 12 months. Flashes of extreme emotion

swing the mood like a wild pendulum. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 15). You're destined for success. This year proves to you that your hard work and wishing have all been for a purpose. Surpris-ing turns in the next 10 weeks cause you to act quickly or miss out. Getting enough sleep, food and exercise allows you to stay mentally and physically nimble. Love requires

sacrifice in May. Lucky signs are ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Leo and Taurus

You're usually goal-oriented, so days like today, when you feel sort of lost and restless, are quite out of character. Here's a hint: Sometimes. the "goal" is unconscious. You're already working toward it without realizing what it is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Explorations of the higher mind bring

you closer to happiness. The quest for knowledge is an ongoing one, though. With all your research and study, you may find there is no nation that can satisfy you

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Public relations do matter. Put ener-

gy there. You're so used to your work that it no longer seems impres sive to you. Though it's hardly the sort of thing you boast about, some one else does and is promoted as a

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It would be nice to be left in your own little corner of the world to do your thing. But that's just not the way it works. Getting along with difficult people will be the difference between success and failure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a time to extend your arms and a time to retract them, hugging your

own soul. You're comforted by pulling back - delve deeper into your own reality, and you'll find the elation you've been seeking through external means.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Moral and ethical issues arise. If you

can't get involved in what **Holiday Mathis** the group is doing, it may be because it's inherently wrong. An honest man doesn't really have a knack for that sort of activity

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a long list of unfinished business. The good news is that much of it doesn't have to be accomplished

by you. Let loved ones know that if they're going to be hanging out with you, they should expect to be put to work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone mysterious inspires you to activate your search engine! Everyone has something to hide, though the secrets you uncover may not be as deep and dark as your imagination wants them to be

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can still win, but you must be persuasive to do it. Getting people to think like you is impossible. So try and come to a consensus with the people you're pretty much stuck

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... your imagination. Unfortunately, no one is coming to rescue you out of your current precarious position. So you must rely on your own super

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Loved ones who have been recently neglected will act out. Consider that there is probably a better way to balance your time. Rework your schedule. Remember, the excellent things in this world must be fought

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Once again, it's clear that your happiness depends on being able to connect in agreement with two or three special people. As John Lennon said, "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

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Peanuts































Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

- 8 Karate school
- 13 Paul Bunyan prop
- compound

- championship
- specialty
- 21 Billboards
- 22 Colony dweller
- 26 Snobbish
- 30 Literary
- collection
- 32 Sapporo sash
- 33 Fireplug
- 36 Leonard Marx
- 38 Mound stat

- 43 Personnel Dept.
- actions
- 49 Caffeine-rich nut
- 50 Square
- 51 Marry
- 52 Works with

- 1 Nasty stinger 3 Avoid
- Down 2 Capri, e.g.
- 4 Laughing pack 5 Madeline
 - and Gus
- 6 Egress
- 7 PBS benefactor
- 8 Scarcity
- 9 Aware of
- 10 Revelation writer 11 Moisturizer name
- 17 KFC piece
- 19 Commotion
- 22 Intention
- 23 "Humbug!"
- 24 Whatever amount
- 25 Despondent
- 26 Stolen
- 27 Polloi preceder
- maybe 45 Merriment 46 Back talk 48 Airline initials

28 Regis and Kelly's

network

29 Uncle (Sp.)

34 Holds

35 St. Louis

31 "CSI" evidence

the scepter

attraction

37 17-syllable

verses

39 Constricts

42 Slapstick

arsenal

36 Ford or Lincoln

40 Attention getter

41 Golfer Ballesteros

43 Doctor's revenue

44 Winning margin.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOOUIP

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"VGM NYYDMBHEQ ONE OF Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY COMPUTER KEYS APPEARS TO BE STICKING. BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Help dealing with gay daughter

Dear Abby: In 2000, I won full custody of my two children, a boy, 12, and a girl, "Dallas," who is now 14

I have done everything I could to raise them both with good morals and provide them with a good education.

A few weeks ago. Dal las confided in me that she's attracted to girls. and has a long-distance relationship with a girl in a different state. It came as a shock, but I have tried to understand s that she doesn't feel had about it. I'm hoping this is just a phase she's going through and that it will pass - but if it doesn't, I'll do my best to deal

with it. My problem is that Dallas insists on letting everyone know about her orientation. She even wears jewelry with the rainbow colors. I keep trying to make her understand that this is HER husiness and it's not something she should make public, but she responds by asking me if I'm

"Of course not.") Am I wrong by telling her that? What's the correct way to deal with this?

- Confused Parent. Arlington, Va Dear Confused: It is a compli-

ment to you that your daughter trusts you enough to be open with you about her sexual orientation.

Many gay teens - and younger children — are so afraid they'll disappoint their parents by disclosing they are "different" that they

don't talk about it. What your daughter needs right now is to know that you love and approve of her. You must be doing some-

thing right, because she is assured enough about who she is that she feels safe being open about it.

It is extremely important that you come to terms with your own feelings about homosexuality. It is not uncommon for the parents of a gay child to feel guilt or shame, when in truth, it has

nothing to do with the quality of their parenting and everything to do with genetics

Your wisest move at this point would be to contact PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and join one of its many support groups. Once you do, you will find it enormously helpful. Contact it by calling (202) 467-8180, or check the Web site at

www.pflag.org. I have recently learned about another helpful resource for parents of younger children who exhibit gender-variant behavior and interests. It's the Children's National Medical Center, which offers a booklet titled "If You Are Concerned About Your Child's Gender Behaviors." It can be downloaded from www.dcchildrens.com/gendervariance in either English or Spanish. It can also be ordered by writing CNMC, 111 Michigan Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words.





Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHEN THE KING WENT OUT FOR

THE NIGHT, HE

WORE HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles:

(Answers tomorrow) BROOK COLON FABRIC UTMOST Where the band ended up when their concert Answer: fizzled - AT "ROCK" BOTTOM

SUNGUF

Family Circus



"A lot of the poems Mommy likes don't even rhyme!'

Ask ex about meeting adult son

Dear Annie: Many years ago, I was married

and had a son, "Linus. That marriage fell apart, and later, I remarried. Linus was then 4 years old. At that time my ex-wife asked if she and her new husband could adopt Linus, My wife and I were expecting a baby, we didn't have much money, and I consented to the adoption because I knew my new family needed the child support money It was a painful decision, but I thought it was the right one.

In the past 13 years, I have come to regret my choice. I've had no contact with Linus since the adoption. He recently turned 18, and I would like to renew our relationship, but I don't know how. I have no idea what his mother has told him over the years. How should I approach

- Absent Dad

Dear Dad: It's possible Linus

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Abby

has no clue about his adoption. You should contact your ex-wife and ask if your son would be interested in meeting you. It would be best if she would facilitate the contact.

However, if she refuses, you can ap-proach Linus on your own. He is an adult now and entitled to this information.

Start with a letter or phone call, explaining briefly that you regret missing out on his life and would like to get to know him. Any further contact, however, is up to him.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Dean" for 10 years. Two years ago, he needed surgery to remove his wedding ring because of swelling.

When he recovered, I tried to replace the ring, but he told me he didn't want to wear it any-

I'm sure he isn't cheating, and

I know he loves me, but this is breaking my heart. I have cried and begged, but he won't budge I have become so resentful that it is affecting the way I feel about him. Am I being oversensitive? It's been two years, and it still

hurts as much today as it did

- Still Brewing in Michigan Dear Michigan: Dean probably doesn't want to wear a ring hecause he fears he'll need surgery again. The swelling must have been quite painful. Since you know he loves you, and you are certain he isn't cheating, stop fussing over this. You are focusing too much attention on some

thing that doesn't have to be so important. It's just jewelry. What counts is the commitment behind it — and you have that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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GRAFFITI



Far



The ghost of Baron Rudolph von Gugge 16th-century poblemen ith-century nobleman murdered by the Countess Rowena DuBois and her lover (believed to be the Duke of Norwood), falls into Edna's bean dip.



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Volvo V70 '04 2.5T AWD 24K excl condition , auto/geartronic Sports Climate Versatility Picps \$28,500 obo, call 09841682950 VW Beetle '01 Black,German Specs, 37000 kil, automatic transmission, air-conditioning, power windows, power locks, excellent condition, really fun little car. \$10,500 obo 0 6 1 2 3 - 6 0 5 8 6 3 or 1775-501-3507

VW Beetle '99, 2.0l, 115hp, 2nd owner. USspec with german brief, 5spd, black, ac, pwr-ali, alarm, thried windows, summer and winter tires, 28Kmi, good cond, \$9900 obo, 0179-745920

VW Golf III VR61992 euro specs, mp3 radio, ac, 5 spd, new brakes, winter-summer tires \$3,500 o.b.o. Dustin 0179-100-1690

Dodge Caravan '04 Grand, SXT AWD 10k Miles excellent cond. w/extras \$24,900 call 0176-24223266 or 466-2916 Ford Aerostar' XLT '93 seats 7, front/rear, ac, good condition \$1,850 call 0179-5209379 Honda Odyssey EX '02 Leather & DVD Rear Entertainment. Silver. Loaded, 53,000 miles. Great Condition, \$20,000 OBO. 09334-993994 or email psroderick@t-online.de

RV1995, fully loaded, diesel, 4 spd auto. sleeps 5, centr. heat, stove, 3 way fridg. shower, tollet, comes with vespa scooler and mount. \$16,500 stegall t-online.de for pics. 0 6 0 4 8 - 9 5 2 - 2 1 8 or 0179-716-3262

Classic Autos 160

BMW X3 '04 US Specs, 6 speed manual, factory warranty 21,000 miles, \$28,500 please call 09826-659575 (leave msg)

FMC Faber

Volvo V50 T5 AWD 2005, \$29.745

et de Tel: (0931) 784 32 47 Wijeshum VOLVO CARS MILITARY SALES IT'S A GREAT DEAL

Computers

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BMW 325Ci '02, red, tan leatherette interior, 33K miles, premium/sport pkg, harmon kar-den sound, xenforl lights, 5-spd pristline condition, tästihuel ethi-cient. \$21,500, please call Mati at 07032-913526 or 430-7637. Automotive

www.amccarsales.com

Volvo V70 2.4A 2005, \$31.545

BMW 535i '97 euro specs, exc condition, 87k miles, silver automatic, ac, fully loaded, silver CD changer, sulmoot, black leather interior, snow tires inct. \$12,500, call 0175-724-8482

BMW 5451 '04 Sports & Premi um Package Loaded, Immacu late, 7,500 miles, selling b upgrade \$48,995 OBO, cal 0175 523 2930

GET IN TOUCH WITH A GREAT DEAL BMW Z3 '01 Drk gm conv, US spec loaded, 5 spd. 62K miles.

Citroen Ax '96 tealgr. 5spd 10450KM,excellent condition summer and winter tires \$1500 c a I I : 0 6 1 3 4 - 6 4 3 9 2 mess,0170-1833322 Dawoo Lanos SE 2002, 60k km, german spec,very reliable, great gas mileage, \$6,500 DBO, greg marston 06154-69-7861

Dodge Neon'97 Expresso 49Körig mi, new bead gasket great shape and everything works except transmission! \$500.00 or make me an offer call 06383-927027

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Opel Astra '01 1.8, 80,000km, CD Changer, Sunroot, AC, Remôte Locking System, Powe dows, Integrated Front ar Fog Lights, Full-Size Galrage Maintained, Tires, \$9,500obo, 06206-

Golf III VR6 '95 Stormigray,UK spec, blk interior, 16inch new alu 205/45, excil cond, sport exhst, fully loaded, pw sun-roof, lowered susp. prem sound, \$4,300 obo, call 01731073097 Hyundai Elantra 1999 excellent condition. 64k, 4.500 deborah JEEP Cherokee '93, Jamboree, 2.51, 4wd, taupe met, needs new engine and minor repairs, great find for hobby mechanic, body, int and tires in good shape. \$500 firm. WI area, ID card holder only, call Kevin 0172-6747011.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 00 4WD 6cyl.4.0 exc.condition, new tires \$12,930 (obb), call 0179-8862017 or email for pictures to: tnythomas_4hot-mail.com

sound, carbon package, remaining factory full warranty, naviga-ting factory full warranty, naviga-tion system. call after 7pm at 197031-419915, or e-mail at 197031-419915, or e-mail at 197031-419915, or e-mail at 197031-41991, or e-mai

PT Cruiser '04 GT 2.4L Eng High Output Turbo, Automatik Power everything, Cruise, AC Black Leather Int. Heate Seats, Keyless Ently, Moor Root, Red 12,000 ml., Istil under warranty/s like new \$18,500.06181-569425

Seat Ibiza '00 euro, red, 5 spd pd, ac, alarm, abs, summer/win-ter tires, exc. cond 35K km

utos for Sale - Germany

PEL GT '71 "Mini Convett 9L engine, 4 speed transm on, blight yellow, restore \$8.500 call, 06181-569425 Plymouth Furyill '65 Con ble, Poly 318 V-8, AT, Manual Brakes, Needs

The Original CJ 7 Jeep '83, sof å hard top/doors, needs little work, asking \$3500 phone Ralph 06224 7728? 164 Motorcycles

BUELL THUNDERBOLT 'S3' 97 us spec, h-d 1200 cc v-twin us spec, h-d 1200 cc v-twin, black, low miles, never down, new parts - extras \$3,400 idc4mhcmsn.com (39) 0771-639-061

Ducati 916 '98 8K km, immacu-late. Lots of carbon fiber, EPA certified. 88500 or best offer call 06221-7366755 Suzuki 650 2002 savage moto

GSX-1300 SUZUKI '01 HAYA-BUSA MINT CONDITION 2.200 MILES SERIOUS INQUIRIES \$8.000 obo ONLY CALL ANY-TIME BEFORE 10 PM 0170-109-6263

HD '97 883 Hugger, Custom flame paint, lots of custom parts

specs, 3200 km heated grips, cr Kawasaki Yulcan '00 Classic 800. Low Mileage. Black and Silver, Windshield, Highway Lights, Highway Boards, Sad-diébage, Drag Pipes, Passenger Backrets, ordinal Stock Eshalist Pipes. 01802-939-462 alter 6 PM

Kawasaki ZX-9R '01 4,300 miles, red-black, just been serv-iced. Great bike, asking \$5800 call 0179-9133145

Suzuki Bandit S 600, US Spec Only 2k mi, Black wChrome, Garage Kept, Professionally Mainfained Like Newl With 2 Helmets, Available after March 20th, CALL ANYTIME 0171-943-6431

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

360

stereo, One owner, like new, 66,500 miles, garaged \$13,500 call 0160-939-68362 or DSN 371-3364

Home Electronics 570

AFN Decoder for sale, \$500, for information call 0178-505-7958

computer with extra monitor, color printer \$300, stationary bicycle-\$100, stereo-\$50, debor-ah 0160-918-71799

by 32inch jvc, risc, 110v, bought jan 2003, new condition, -13in to ver combo risc, 110v, \$40. White large capacity power transform-ers, 1600w and 3000w, \$50 and \$75 respectively, please call 0.7 1.5 - 7.5 3 - 2.2 8.3 or 0176-261-0273

Kenwood Speakers 4way,7Speaker System 400 Wts. \$200.00 Pioneer 25 Disc CD Player \$75.00 Call-06151-339655

CYCLETECHS

dress greens-38r; best offer 06301-7181-98, 484-7852

Musical Instruments740

guitar Excellent conditi \$400.00 Call 0175-596-7233

sky satalite decoder \$500.00

Jobs Offered

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

180

210

Sport Utility Vehicle 172 Chevy Trail Blazer 2004 north face edition. 6k miles, fully

Need 1995 Isuzu, Rodeo parts any info appreciated help! 0162-163-0365 Chevy \$10 Blazer LS 4.3L Vortec V6 4X4 31" BF Goodrich tires 15in used , set of 4 from dodge neon, \$30. please cal 0.7 1.5 - 7.5 3 - 2.2 8.3 or 0176-2361-0273 Chevy S10 Blazer LS Vortec V6 4X4 31" BF Good Baja Champ' tires, custom power windows, doors seats. 81,600 miles, S9 mounted on oem nissan rims \$50.00, 0172-778-7779 tires, set of four fulda 205-55-15 all season, comes with 4 lug rims that fit nissan-honda im-ports \$150.00, 0172-778-7779

JEEP Grand Cherokee 1997 4X4, us specs, 110K, excel cond, V6, auto trans, loaded, car top carrier incl, \$7,200, cal 06227-54-5783 lv msg. Jeep Grand Cherokee LTD 2001, 36k ml, 4wd v8 4.7l, blk,

ather, heated seats, premund, 10cd, sunroof, more sp. oct. \$20k firm 75-827-8099. pics-brian sclowell @us.army.mll tired of being a paleface? tanning bed, 110 v. so you can take it stateside, in the original carton. a bargain at \$500. 0.16.0 - 9.3.9 - 6.8.3.6.2 take it stateside, in the carton, a bargain at 0 1 6 0 - 9 3 9 - 6 8 3 6 2 Jeep Cherokee '92 Laredo U.S spec, 53K miles, excellent cond, \$ 3,800 or euro 2,850 call ch ph. 06131-45086 Bicycles 220

two 16in kid's blkes condition. \$20 ea. plea 0.7 1.5 - 7.5 3 - 2.2 8.3 0176-2361-0273 Land Rover '00 Discovery, Series II, dk. Grmtan leather, FULLY LOADED, tow package, grill guard, running boards, Edisk CD, Harmoh Kardor sound, rare Saflari rack, 66K mi \$17K obo . 0160-252-9983

Auto Parts

Michelin Energy MXV4 Plus tires, 205%5HR-16, set of 4. Brand new, never used. Original Equipment on 3 Series BMW. \$122 each retail, asking \$375 for the set of 4, 09720-951748

Child Care Offered 290 and Rover Discovery SE 97 time awd, superb cond, auto,

arienced Nanny English an speaking, excel Referen ces call 0171-3500373 Nissan Xterra '00 Dark blue.
Automatic power windows:
doors AC, CD, New tres.
102,000 miles. Two 12-inch
subwoofers and amp. \$7500
OBO. 06561604560 or
016094845271 Nissan Xterra '00 SE US Spec V6, 4X4, Auto. \$15,000. Cal

from MTV. Please call 0 6 2 0 2 - 5 1 3 2 4 o r 015-1128-60228. For a refer-ence call 06221-3959813 all ages. Kitzingen Area, please call Heidi 01608042445

y custom. cab c-15 truck black, 327 v-8, auto. de-long bed, all orig. no arizona truck. \$14,500 ing, exp. preferred, call 0173-7044421 or 0611-4200406

> Collectibles interested in buying Humme figurines in original boxes please call 06223-862871

Jobs Offered

174

ge Rover 4x4 1988 4dr kenwood od player, goo-ing cond, just passed in tion 3,000 obo please cal

stegallt-online.de for pics. 0 6 0 48 - 9 5 2 - 2 1 8

Software Developer

US Government Contractor is seeking applicants for Software Developer positions at Mainz-Kastel, Germany. Full-time long-term position. Java and Mod-Perl with emphasis on SQL. Please email HR@acs-global.net for details.

Computers 360 COMPUTERS · NO MONEY DOWN · LOW PAYMENTS Get more - Pay le

Wanted and good running PC that does NOT have XP soft-ware will concider trading for older PC and getting rid of my new pc with xp software ph 0611-9277699

Antique Oak Drop Leaf Table w/4 antique oak chairs. Excel-lent condition. \$500 or best ofter. Tet: 06198-1821 For sale: 6 Bob Timberlake wood Windsor chairs, two with arms. 450 euro. Call 06224-147720, Heidelberg For sale: 6 old French wood chairs with leather seats. 125 euro. Call 06224-147720, Heidelberg

for sale, massive, solid oak roll-top computer desk with matching chair, many unique features, singed by the crafts man. \$1,300.06221-7512993 furniture-for sale-oak wardrobes for sale-new-\$275-3 ft wide x2 ft deep x 6 ft high-phone-0173-654-0275

wanted - stroller, infant carsea

Household Items 560 Washer and dryer, 220 volt, like new, used privately in post housing, only 1 year old, washer \$300.00, dryer \$250.00, together \$500.00, paid 800 euros. Call Amy at 01758283084

2 beautiful brand new hand woven wool rugs from tunisia. 90,000 knots per sq meter. 400.00e per rug or 700.00e for both. call 06307-401-208 or 01799-199-427 german wardrobe - light wood, w-mirrors, 2m 70, \$600 obo. night stands, dresser, ar light wood, \$250 06205-202-980

Jobs Offered

ManTech

SATCOM TECHNICIANS

ManTech Defense Systems Group

has a requirement for SATCOM Site Managers and Technicians. The location of the work is in Italy and the positions have full logistical support. Additional benefits include tax-free salaries and housing allowance. Candidates should have at least four years SATCOM Systems experience. SATCOM DSCS Satellite Communications Operator Course and/or Strategic SHF SATCOM Systems Maintenance Course attendance will be considered a plus. All positions require US citizenship and the ability to obtain a SECRET security clearance.

> Please email your resume to: tim.klawitter@mantech.com

PCS Sale 780 Pets wiremote control. Picture in picture and many other options. Purchased 2 yrs. ago for over \$1200.00, dual voltage. (45wx50L) \$800.00 call \$0841-685919

820 Pets

FRENCH POODLE MINIATURE for/sale (small-breed) 4-months,

Horse for Sale- Sorrel Warm-blood Gelding, 5 yr old, 15.2hh, 2 months Professional Western Reining Training, Could also go englishlyumping: A steal at \$3500 GBO. Intermediate rider call 0641-494-11530

820

wanted a little pet dog for no much money, does not need to much money, does not need to be pure bred, beagle mi cocker, or corgi ETC... that typ call 927-7699 live in weisbaden

Pet Grooming

Darmstadt 4 bedr. app. wi balcory, avail. for rent in May June 1. Kitchen, garden, 110 eur w/utilities call 05257-93986 Double house - 160 gm. Ga rage, 3 bedrooms, large living idining area, bulli-in kitchen, 2 baths, lots of storage, private back yard. 15 min from wiesba-den airfield. Asking 380,000 euros. call 06198-1821

Property Investors looking to property in the USAI Fax (49) 6135-932136, EPDc_GERN @t-online.de. call 0171-5109237

Music Lessons

Apartment Unfurn 856

Religious Activities 871

Church of Christ convenient to West

and 0162-8603016 Visit our Web Site @ House Furnished 876

House Unfurnished 878

bath, heat-fir,garden, many xtras, euro 415,000 obo, cal (05134) 291-838 Mainz Kastel

918

Satellite Television 932

wanted -afn decoder and satel-lite dish. 06202-927-9930 hm 01610-103-1759 cel

Sporting Goods

ass and cage pedals, wire cyclocomputer included iss cyclocomputer included lidden 1 summer. \$300. Also finoura HyperRim Alu indoo rainer. \$80. 0160-9265-7211

TOTALGYM exercise equiment, exel, cond, new price 1100 asking \$ 700, call learnessage 09841-403197

Nordic Tracker Walk Fit. Self Powered Tread Mill. Almost new condition. Great for the Motiva-ted \$125 OBO Te1: 06181-53918

1000 *GARMISCH SKIING

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-High school basket-all: Jam Fest (Slam Dunk, Three-Point, and eam Ball Finals) (did). AFN-Sports, 7:30 a.m.-College basketball: (CAA Women's Tournament Special (did). AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.-NBA: Milwaukee at ilami (did). wiami (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart
**EW Tour (dld).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring Train-ng, L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox.

Wednesday

AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m.-College bas-ketball: NCAA Tournament play-in game, Netball: NCAA Tournament play-in game, Oakland vs. Alabama A&M. AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: NIT first-round game. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College baskeball: NIT

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College baskeball: NIT irst-round game.
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-Motor racing: Champing off-Rood Racing, Topeka Races 2 and (both did).
(both did as (did).

AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.-Auto racing: Nextel
Lup UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 (did),
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Tennis: Pacific Life
Inen. women's guarterfinals.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

.727 .700 .692 Cleveland Toronto Los Angeles Tampa Bay Detroit Baltimore Chicago Minnesota Boston Kansas City New York Oakland .556 .500 .461 .417 .400 .400 .385 .364 .273 Texas Seattle NATIONAL LEAGUE Pct. .700 San Francisco Milwaukee .667 .583

Milwaukee Atlanta New York Washington Arizona Chicago Los Angeles Philadelnhia .545 .545 .545 .539 .500 .454 .454 Cincinnati San Diego Florida .41

NOTE: Split-squad games count in standings; games against non-major le teams do not.

Sunday's gam N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 6 Minnesota 4, Boston 2 N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 6 Minnesota 4, Boston 2 N.Y. Yankees 8, Houstor L.A. Dodgers 7, Florida 2 Cleveland 10, Cincinnati Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 0 Washington 11. Baltimore (ss) 4 Philadelphia 9, Pittsburgh 7 Baltimore (ss) 5, St. Louis (ss) 3 Seattle 7, Texas 6 L.A. Angels 3, Chicago Cubs 2 San Diego 5, Oakland (ss) 1 Arizona (ss) 15, Milwaukee 11 Chicago White Sov 9, Colorado 8 Oakland (ss) 3, Arrona (ss) 0 Kansas City 3, San Francisco 3, tie, 10 in-

nings

Monday's games

Florida vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

Atlanta vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.

Boston vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. N.Y. Mets vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven.

L.A. Dodgers vs. Washington at Viera, Fla. Toronto vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater Fla.

Detroit (ss) vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Sarasota, Fla.

la.
Texas vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
Colorado vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Seattle (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at

Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz. Kansas City (ss) vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Seattle (ss) vs. Kansas City (ss) at Sur-prise, Ariz.

IZ. nati (ec) ve Dotrnit (ec) at I akoland Fla. Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

Auto racing

UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400

NASCAR Nextel Cup Sunday At Las Vegas Motor Speedway Las Vegas Lap length: 1.5 miles (Start position in parentheses)) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267

\$428,066. 2. (10) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 267, \$244,800. 3. (5) Kurt Busch, Ford, 267, \$249,125. 4. (11) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 267, \$197,911.

5. (42) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 267, \$179,485. 6. (3) Greg Biffle, Ford, 267, \$139,600. 7. (15) Casey Mears, Dodge, 267, \$139,083. 8. (6) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 267, \$151,111. 9. (1) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 267, \$148,511.

11. (16) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 267, \$117,908. \$117,908. 12. (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 267, \$129,283. 13. (29) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 267, 13 \$106

. (20) Carl Edwards, Ford, 267, \$104,025. . (22) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 267, . (18) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 267, \$94,925. . (24) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 267

\$118,970.
\$18,170.
\$18,170.
\$18,170.
\$18,170.
\$19.10.
\$19.10.
\$112,583.
\$20, (26) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 267, \$117,250.
\$21, (36) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 266,

21. (3b) Michael waters, Section 5115,439. 22. (17) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 266, \$84,425. 23. (39) Jeff Green, Dodge, 266, \$115,061. 24. (30) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 266,

28. (39) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 268 85,950. 25. (35) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (6) Travis Kvanil, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (20) Scott Winnier, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (2) Eliots Saddler, Ford, 265, 511,760. 30. (19) Mark Martin, Ford, 243, 595,590. 31. (4) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 243, 595,590. 32. (41) Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 237, out 33. (40) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 226, out,

33. (40) Hermie Sadier, Ford, 226, out, 577,800.
34. (14) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 225, \$76,650.
35. (25) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 219, \$104,358.
36. (38) Randy LaJole, Chevrolet, 182, out, 576,250. \$76,250.
37. (33) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 181, \$103,239.
38. (7) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 154, out, \$107,90.
39. (27) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 57, out, \$75,625.
40. (43) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 39, out,

75,400. 41. (31) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 15, out, 41. (31) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 15, out, \$109,780.
42. (34) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 11, out, \$122,433, 43. (32) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 11, out, \$83,166.

Race Statistics Time of Race: 3 hours, 18 minutes, 32 sec

Point Standings: 1. JJohnson, 525. 2. Kurt Busch, 510. 3. G.Biffle, 428. 4. J.Gordon, 418. 5. C.Edwards, 408. 6. T.Stewart, 402. 7. R.Wal-lace, 395. 8. K.Harvick, 394. 9. R.Newman, 389. 10. M.Martin 374. lace, 395. 8. K.Harvi 10. M.Martin, 374.

Golf

Honda Classic

Sunday
At The Country Club at Mirasol,
Sunrise Course
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Purse: \$5.5 million
Yardage: 7,384; Par: 72
Final Round

Final Round

X-won on second hole of playoff

X-P. Harrington, \$990,000 73-68-96-63 - 274 - 14

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 73-68-67-68 - 274 - 14

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 73-66-67-68 - 274 - 14

Pat Pierz, \$284,000 69-69-67-70 - 275 - 13

Bard Esons, \$158,000 - 275 - 275 - 275

Bard Standard Stand S. McCarron, \$77,000 Nick Watney, \$77,000 Sean O'Hair, \$77,000 Lee Janzen, \$77,000 Kevin Na, \$43,816.67 68-68-74-71-69-72-68-72-69-64-72-76-69-69-78-66--281

T. Petrovic, \$43,816.67 71-70-73-68-J. Williamson, \$43,816.67 73-68-71-70-Brian Gay, \$43,816.67 73-69-70-70-Billy Mayfair, \$43,816.67 72-68-71-M. Dawson, \$43,816.67 71-70-70-71 L Williamson, \$43,816,677,66-71,77-28 Billy Maylarf, \$53,816,677,76-87-17,7-28 M. Dawson, \$43,816,677,76-87-17,7-72 M. Dawson, \$43,816,677,7-77-77-77-78 Dawson, \$43,816,667,7-77-77-78 M. Herisby, \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Charle W. \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Dawson, \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Joe Durant, \$53,017-29,70-77-77-78-78 Dauley Hart, \$22,000,7-77-77-78-8 Dauley Hart, \$22,000,7-77-77-78-8 Dauley Hart, \$22,000,7-77-77-88 Paul Gow, \$22,000 74-69-71-70-284 J. Panrevik, \$22,000 76-70-74-73-284 Justin Leonard, \$22,000 71-69-71-73-284 Baniel Chopra, \$22,000 70-68-72-74-284 Tim Herron, \$22,000 70-68-72-74-284 Robert Damron, \$22,000 70-65-73-76-285 Glen Hnatiuk, \$14,960 70-65-73-76-285 Glen Hnatiuk, \$14,960 71-73-72-69-285 - 3 Carl Pettersson, \$14,960 72-72-72-69-285 - 3 Glen Day, \$14,960 73-70-72-70-285 - 3 Tag Ridings, \$14,960 70-70-73-72-285 - 3 Andrew Magee, \$14,960 72-72-69-72-285 - 3 H. Tanaka, \$14,960 73-69-70-73-285 - 3

SBC Classic

Sunday At Valencia Country Club Santa Clarita, Calif. Purse: \$1.55 million Yardage: 6,905; Par: 72 Final Round

Pinal Roy Des Smyth, 522,000 D.A. Welbring, \$124,000 Mark McNulty, \$124,000 Cralj Stadler, \$83,700 Mike Reid, \$58,900 Kelth Fergus, \$58,900 Brad Bryant, \$46,500 Bruce Fleisher, \$37,200 Don Reese, \$37,200 Don Reese, \$37,200 Don Pooley, \$37,200 Lanny Wadkins, \$31, B. Summerhave Dana Quigley, \$25,600.83 Tom Purtzer, \$25,600.83 Wayne Levi, \$25,600.83 Isao Aoki, \$25,600.83

72-72-09-213 74-66-73-213 70-71-73-214 72-65-77-214 73-74-68-215 74-70-71-215 75-71-70-216 Reest, 337,200 72-71-73-216 py Ooley, \$37,200 73-70-74-217 ummerhays, \$25,000.84 73-73-72-218 le Irwin, \$25,600.83 73-73-72-218 n Purtzer, \$25,600.83 72-73-73-218 py Levi, \$25,600.83 72-73-73-218 po Aoki, \$25,600.83 69-73-76-218

71-72-68-211 71-69-72-212

72-66-74-212 72-72-69-213

College basketball

Sunday's scores

TOURNAMENT Atlantic Coast Confere Championship Duke 69, Georgia Tech 64 Big Ten Conference Championship

Championship Oklahoma St. 72, Texas Tech 68

Oklahoma St. 72, Tevas Tech 68
Southeastern Conference
Championship
Florida 70, Kentucky 53
Southland Conference
Championship
SE Louisjana 49, Northwestern St. 42
Southwestern Athletic Conferenc
Championship
Alabama A&M 72, Alabama St. 53
MCAA Division II
Revan 75, Segional Semifinals

NCAA Division II Regional Semifinals Bentley 90, Southern New Hampshire 84 Mount Olive 72, Indiana, Pa. 64 Salem International 105, Pfeilfer 92 Tarleton State 65, Pittsburg State 59 Texas A&M-Commerce 81, Central Okla. Texas A&M-Commerce 81, Central Olda. Lynn 73, Central Arkansas 699 Montevallo 65, Eckerd 62 Ferris State 93, Southern Indiana 87 Findlay 63, Wayne State, Mich. 49 South Bakota 73, Winona State 68 Metro State 85, Minn. State-Mankato 64 Va. Union 85, South Carolina-Upstate 67 Bowie State 84, Columbus State 72

Sunday's women's scores

TOURNAMENT
NCAA Division II
Regional Semifinals
Bentley 63, Southern Connecticut State 49
Merrimack 76, American International 67
NCAA Division III
Quarterlinals
Springfield 80, Southern Maine 69

College baseball

Sunday's men's scores

Binghamton 15-7, Delaware St. 11-1 Coppin St. 6-5, Md. Eastern Shore 2-6 Delaware 7, Stony Brook 5

George Mason 5, Fairfield 1 George Washington 6, Vern Towson 4-3, LeMoyne 2-0 UMBC 10, Canisius 7 SOUTH Akron 9, Murray St. 7 Arizona St. 30 W Illinois 13 UMBC 10. Carbinia 7.

UMBC 10. Carbinia 7.

SOUTH
Afron 3. Marry 3.

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Afro

Middle Fennessen 8, Jacksonyille St. O Micholis St. St. Dusliana Tech 3 North Carolina at Va. Tech C.d., weather North Carolina at Va. Tech C.d., weather C.d., Wilmylord, In July J. I North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Rords 14, Kennesau St. 9 North St. 6, M. Carolina Az T 5 South Carolina 6, Clemson 5 South Alabama St. Nigara 1 South Carolina 6, Clemson 5 South Fordis 14, Julynippiac 5 Souther Miss 7, Arkanias St. 5 Souther Miss 7, Arkanias St. 5

Tennessee 12, Radford of Troy 3, Lipscomp Lillerton 9
Tusculum 9, Lenoir-Hyme 8, 10 innings UM-Creensboro 5, The Citadel 4
UM-Creensboro 5, The Citadel 4
Wash 8, Lee 14-4, Hampden-Sydney 4-13
Wash 8, Lee 14-4, Hampden-Sydney 4-13
Walbama 7, Ouachtin Baptist 9
William 8, Many 9, Princeton 9
William 8, Many 9, Princeton 9
Valie 6, Massachusettis 5
Valie 6, Massachusettis 5
Valie 7, Massachusettis 5
Valie 8, Mary 9, Evanoville 3

Austin Peay 6, Evansville 3 Cincinnati 6, Xavier 0 Cent. Missouri 2, Emporia St. 0 Ill.-Chicago 14, Saint Louis 7 Kansas 17, N. Dakota St. 2 Kansas St. 11, E. Michigan 3 Manchester 3-6, DePauw 2-2 Missouri 17, Yuyunstown St. 0

Kansas S. I. I. & Michigan J.

Missouri J. Youngstown S. O

Nebraska J. S. Dakoda S. 4.

Neshama J. Morthwestern J. 4.

Ark. - Pipe Bluff 24, Southern U. 2.

Ark. - Pipe Bluff 24, Southern U. 2.

Ark. - Pipe Bluff 24, Southern U. 2.

Neshama J. Nerrhwestern S. 6.

Oldshoma J. Nerrhwestern S. 6.

Oldshoma J. Nerrhwestern S. 6.

Total G. 1.

Texas AdM S. UCL A S. 1.

Long Beach St. 5, Houston 4.

Long Beach St. 5, Houston 4.

Long Beach St. 5, Houston 4.

New Medico J. J. Savannah S. 1.

Mississippi St. 13, Artzona 12
New Mexico 13, Savannah St. 3
N. Colorado 4, Washington St. 3
Portiand 6, Pacili, Guida 6
San Diego 10, San Diego St. 2
San D

Austin Peay 6, Evansville 3 N. Illinois at Evansville, ppd., weather Renn Bradley 21, Toledo 3 Iowa 16, Rider 2 lowa 16, Rider 2
Lamar Classic
Lamar 3, N.Y. Tech 0
Michigan 9, Cent. Connecticut St. 0
MetroDome Tournament
Louislana-Lafayette 3, St. John's 1
Harvard 9, Minnesota 1

Harvard 9, Minnesota 1
Public Storage Classic
Wichita St. 6, Texas Tech 5
UC Irvine 8, Southern Cal 2
USA Challenge
Connecticut 4, Tenn.-Martin 0
Indiana St. 11, Memphis 10 Ark.-Little Rock 3, Tenn.-Martin 0 Yellow Book USA Classic Oregon St. 8, Winthrop 2 CS Northridge 8, Pepperdine 1

College hockey

Saturday's scores

Saturday's scores
Alamit Hockey Association
Quarter/hais
Bentley 4, Can Quarter/hais
Bentley 4, Can Gardel Heart 0
CHA
Alassia-Fairbanks 6, Bowling Green 3, AlassFairbanks may series 2-6 series tied 1-1
Michigan 1, Notre Dame 6, O'r, Michigan
Weis series 2-6. Miami (Dish 0, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, Marin (Dish 0, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, San Marin Challo 4, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, San Marin Bentley 4, San wins series 2-0 Michigan St. 5, Miami (Ohio) 4, OT, Michi-gan St. wins series 2-0 Nebraska-Omaha 4, Lake Superior St. 3, OT, Nebraska-Omaha wins series 2-0 N. Michigan 4, W. Michigan 2, series tied 1.1 CHA

Sai Semifinals Alabama-Huntsville 4, Niagara 2 Bemidji St. 6, Air Force C ECAC

ECAC Second Round Colgate 3, Brown 0, Colgate wins series 2-0 Cornell 3, Clarkson 2, OT, Cornell wins se-fes 2-0 Harvard 3, St. Lawrence 2 ries 2-0

les 2-0
Vermont 3, Dartmouth 2, OT, series tied 1-1
Hockey East
First Round
Boston College 5, Massachuetts 1, Boston
College wins series 2-0

NCAA Div. III

NCAA Div. III
Quarterfinals
Middlebury 6, Curry 0
New England Coll. 3, Manhattanville 0
St. Thomas, Minn. 3, St. Norbert 2
Trinity, Conn. 4, Geneseo St. 0
WCHA
First Round
Alaska-Anchorage 2, Wisconsin 1, series
ord 1.1

tied 1:1 Colorado College 4, St. Cloud St. 2, Colorado College 4, St. Cloud St. 2, Colorado College wins series 2:0 Denver 1, Michigan Tech 0, Denver wins series 2:0 Minnesota 5, Minne minnesota 5, Minn.-Mankato 3, Minnesota ns series 2-0 North Dakota 6, Minn.-Duluth 1, North Da-kota win series 2-0

Tennis

Pacific Life Open

Sunday At The Indian Wells Tennis Gard Indian Wells, Calif.

Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: Men, \$2,724,500 (Masters);
Women, \$2.1 million (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Second Round

Men Second Round Taylor Dent (30), United States, def. Cyril aulnier, France, 1-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Tommy Taylor Dent (200-continues).

Taylor Dent (200-continues).

Sauliner, Franci, 1-7 (G), 16-2 d. C. Continues, 200-continues, 20

TANK McNamara



No longer than 'other' Washington school

Huskies not only region's top seed but also its best 'feel-good' story

> BY EDDIE PELLS The Associated Press

ob Knight and Rick Pitino. Gonzaga and UCLA All household names that are part of the Albu-querque regional this year. Only the hard core, though, might be familiar with the top seed — pint-sized guard Nate Robinson, third-year coach Lorenzo Roman and the Washington Huskies.

The Huskies (27-5), who play the majority of their games after most of America has gone to bed, definitely got the attention of the NCAA selection committee.

They won the Pac-10 tourna-ment Saturday and, when Ken-tucky lost in the Southeastern Conference final Sunday, the door was opened for Romar's team to be seeded first — not bad for a team ranked just 14th in the latest Associated Press poll.

"If you ask me, 'Do we deserve it?' My answer is yes," Romar said. "Are we surprised? I guess the surprising part is that we weren't sure whether someone else, other than us, would think we deserved it.'

With Washington as the No. 1, Wake Forest as the No. 2 and last vear's national runner-up. Georgia Tech, as a No. 5, this is widely regarded as the most wide-open of the four regionals

Gonzaga, arguably the most recognizable team from Washington, earned a third seed and, given the bracket, there's a good argument for this being the year the tiny



Washington coach Lorenzo Romar hugs Jamaal Williams after the Huskies' 81-72 victory over Arizona on Saturday. Washington earned not only the Pac-10 tournament title but a No. 1 seeding in the NCAA tourney.

school from Spokane finally gets to the Final Four "I don't really sit there and ana-

Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "I leave that up to the brack-

All around the bracket are interesting stories featuring familiar names and high-profile pro-

Knight leads sixth-seeded Texas Tech in a first-round game against 11th-seeded UCLA.

Chris Paul of Wake Forest tries to set aside his suspension from the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament - one that contributed to his team's first-round loss and lead the Demon Deacons to the regional semis for the second straight year.

Georgia Tech, a bubble team just two weeks ago, got in easily thanks to its appearance in the ACC tournament final. The Yellow Jackets open against George Washington.

Pitino leads the fourth-seeded Cardinals against Sun Belt champion Louisiana-Lafavette. The Cardinals, ranked sixth in the AP and winners of the regular-season and tournament championships in Conference USA, were expecting a better seed, and now have reason to play with a chip on their shoulders.

T've got to lift them up a little bit." Pitino said. "But we're in the tournament, we've met the criteria, we've met all the challenges and we've just got to keep on going.

Pacific looked like it could be the next Gonzaga, a powerful small school that had won 22 straight going into the Big West Conference tournament final. A loss in that game dampened the ontimism, but when the bracket came out, the Tigers found themaway (against Pitt) from playing the Huskies

"It looks like a good bracket for forward Christian Maraker

Indeed, it is wide open, and there is no need to look too far down the bracket to find the kind of intriguing, unknown team that often captures imaginations during the tournament

That candidate is the Huskies. who get 16.7 points a game from the 5-foot-9 Robinson and who defeated Arizona twice over the last three weeks to greatly improve their standing in the bracket.

They beat out Kentucky, Oklahoma State. Wake Forest and a few other good candidates for a top seed, and even some in the oft-overlooked Pac-10 were surprised.

'It speaks volumes to the selection committee they were able to give a No. 1 seed to the Pac-10 in the West," Stanford coach Trent Johnson said. "Me personally. I didn't think they were going to

They did, though, and Romar gets much of the credit. A former Huskie himself

Romar was an assistant under Jim Harrick when UCLA won the national championship in 1995 Romar took over before the 2002-03 season and quickly transformed the Huskies from a regional also-ran into a national power.

Washington was third in the latest RPI ratings. The Pac-10 tournament title was the first league championship of any kind for the Huskies since 1985.

"We've definitely got a banner to put up in the gym next year, Washington forward Bobby Jones said. "We'd love to have another one that says, 'National Champions,' too."

AP Sports Writers Tim Korte in Seattle and Janie McCauley in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Albuquerque Regional

Becord: 72. La H8.93. or rieb. 26. Becord: 72. La H8.93. or rieb. 26. Key players: 6 Nate Robinson (16.3 pts., 49. Sast.), GTre Simmon (16.7 pts., 494.9-rp pt.), G Sast.), GTre Simmon (16.7 pts., 494.9-rp pt.), G ULI, 7pts., 54 reb.). Body valenting to Bud you know? A quard at Washington from ble you know? A quard at Washington from the case of the state of the state of the kee and betroit before quitting the NBA in 1986 to play for Ahrleise in Action, the arthetic divi-ous control of the state of the Outlook: Talented squad has Final Four dreams.

freams.

2. WAKE FOREST

Record: 26-5. Last 10: 8-2

Best win: 95-82 vs. North Carolina on Jan. 15.

Key players: G Chris Paul (14.9 pts., 6.6 asst.), C rividillams (16.0 pts., 7.7 reb.), G Justin Gray 16.3 pts., 21 asst.). Did you know?: CBS announcer Billy Packer was an All-ACC guard for Wake in 1962, when the Deacons made their only final Four trip. Outlook: With Paul running the point, Demon Deacons could make a strong run for the Final

Deacons could make a strong run flow the Final Four.

2. CONTAGA

Record: 25-4. Last 18: 10: 10-20.

Record: 25-4. Last 18: 10: 10-20.

Rest win: 78-7 at Oklahoms Stats on Dec. 28.

Rey players: F Adom Morrison (18: 15-2.

Did you know!: Eight of "Zags" nine NCAA wins hold to be played to be pla

outlook: Coming on strong, Cardinals could nake a long tournament run.

5. GEORGIA TECH

Record: 19-11. Last 10: 6-4.

Best win: 102-101 at Wake Forest on Jan. 27.

Key players: G Jarrett Jack (15.9 pts., 4.6 asst.),

G-F B.J. Elder (13.4 pts., 358-3pt pct.), C Luke
Schenscher (10.4 pts., 7.5 reb.). Schenscher (10.4 pts., 7.5 reb.). Did you know? Yellow Jackets' loss to Connecticut in last year's title game was best NCAR run in thool lists' pear's title game was best NCAR run in thool lists' pearly low Jackets are peaking at the right time, but the selection committee did them no favors. One win could be It.

Record: 20-10. Last 16:5-5.

Record: 20-10. Last 16:5-5. one for 14.4.

Record: 20-10, Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 80-79 vs. Kansas on Feb. 14.
Key players: G Ronald Ross: (16.6 pts., 5.1 reb.),
J alrrius Jackson (14.6 pts., 3.3 reb.). F Devonne
siles: (11.6 pts., 1.9 blk.).
Did you know?: Ross, the Red Raiders' leading
corer, was a walk-on without a scholarship as a

reshman. **Outlook:** Never count a Knight-coached team out, but the Red Raiders will be lucky to win two

Hundley.

Outlook: Anyone from the Big East is tough, but Mountaineers lack the big-time player to take them deep into the tournament.

R PACIFIC.

take them deep in mish, the pig-time player to the them deep in the PACPIFE.

Record: 26-3, Last 16-3.

Record: 26-3, Last

Record: 20-8. A PITTSBURGH

Record: 20-8. Last 19-5-5.

Rev players: 0. Cull Knauer (1.5, pts. 6. despt.), 2-6. Cull Knauer (1

Record: 18-10. Last 10-6-4.
Best wim: 5-8 or. Washington on Jan. 8.
Key players: G-F Dijon Thompson (18.3 pts., 8.0 reb.), G. Jordan Farmar (13.6 pts., 5.3 asst.), G. Jordan Farmar (13.6 pts., 5.3 asst.), G. Jordan (19.6 pts.), G

men, and their first-round exit from the Pac-10 tournament rappers and not how they'l fare.

Record; 22,7, Last 18,6-2, State 9,6-3, on Dec. 4, Record; 22,7, Last 18,6-2, State 9,6-3, on Dec. 4, Rey Balvers; 6-17. Hompson (13,7 tps. 3, 0), ass.), F. J. Peb. P. Finner, S. L. Feb. P. Finner, D. F. Finner, S. L. Feb. P. Finner, D. F. Finner, D. Finner, D. F. Finner, D. Finner, D

13. LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

ournament comes in John Sulmans first year as a Bead coach.

3a Bead coach.

3a Bead coach.

3a Bead coach.

5a Bead coach.

5

Powerhouse teams and players in Austin

Duke, Kentucky, Michigan State, Syracuse recent NČAA champs

BY JAIME ARON The Associated Press

ike to follow powerhouse programs in the NCAA tournament? Want to watch star players? Root for the underdogs? This year's Austin Regional is rich in all those story lines, including the chance that Duke and Kentucky will meet for a spot in the Final

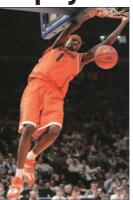
The selection committee on Sunday rewarded the Blue Devils with the No. 1 seed for winning the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, while the Wildcats dropped to No. 2 after losing the finals of the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The next three spots all went to recent Final Four teams - Oklahoma (2002), Syracuse (national champs in '03) and Michigan (2001 and national champs in 2000). Even the sixth through ninth seeds — Utah, Cincinnati, Stanford and Mississippi State have been to the Final Four recently enough that some fans may still be wearing the T-shirts.

The star power for this chunk of the bracket comes from Utah's Andrew Bogut, perhaps the na tion's best big man, and three of the nation's top six scorers during the regular season: Vermont's Coppenrath, Niagara's Juan Mendez and Duke's J.J. Redick It wouldn't be tournament time

without charming upstarts. Among those two victories away from Austin are 14th-seeded Nia gara, which will be making its first appearance since Calvin





Two of the best big men in the country, Utah's 7-foot Australian, Andrew Bogut, left, and Syracuse's Big East player of the year. Hakim Warrick, will draw plenty of attention in the NCAA tournament's Austin Regional.

Murphy was the main attraction in 1970, and No. 16 seed Delaware State, which is in for the first time, period. There's also No. 15 seed Eastern Kentucky, whose coach, Travis Ford, helped first-round foe Kentucky reach the Final Four in 1993.

If Duke and Kentucky can win

three straight games, history indi-cates it would be one beck of a game. The teams have met in the NCAA tournament five times and all have been decided by six points or less; the last three have been even better, with a total of four points separating the win-

And if you really want to look ahead, think about who the win-

ner of this region will face in St. Louis: the winner of the Syracuse Regional, which includes North Carolina, reigning champion Connecticut, Kansas and Florida. The Blue Devils (25-5) open Fri-day close to home in Charlotte,

N.C., against Delaware State (19-13), winner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship. Next up, on Sunday would be the winner of the 8-9 game between Stanford (18-12) and Mississippi State (22-10).

Stanford is 5-3 since losing leading scorer Dan Grunfeld to a knee injury, but recently beat Washingne top seed in the Albuquer que Regional, and narrowly lost to the Huskies in the semifinals of the Pac-10 tournament, Mississippi State is on the upswing since getting guard Winsome Frazier back from a broken foot, and now the Bulldogs are hoping to get out of the first weekend for the first time since making the Final Four

Syracuse and Michigan State have both won national titles since then, and could meet Sunday in Worcester, Mass.

First, Hakim Warrick and fourth-seeded Syracuse (27-6) must get past 13th-seeded Vermont (24-6) on Friday, while fifth-seeded Michigan State (22-6) opens against 12th-seeded Old Dominion (28-5). The Spar-tans and Orange last met in the gan State won it all.

Syracuse is a popular sleeper pick to come out of this region it can be considered a sleeper after its first Big East tournament title since 1992 and after Warrick picked up the tourney MVP to go with his conference player of the

Kentucky (25-5) will be trying to bounce back from its worst-ever loss in the SEC tournament — "Obviously, we're going to have to play better to do well," coach Tubby Smith said — when coach rubby Smith said — when it plays Eastern Kentucky (22-9). That winner gets either No. 7 Cin-cinnati (24-7) or No. 10 Iowa (21-11). Those games are Thursday and Saturday in Indianapolis.

"I came here four years ago, and each year I've asked coach Huggs, 'Can we play Kentucky? and they couldn't arrange for that game to happen," Bearcats for-ward Jason Maxiell said. "If we win against Iowa, that game's

going to happen." Huggins, however, won't look ahead

'If they spend all that time thinking about that, they'll be watching Kentucky play Iowa on

TV," Huggins said. Fans in Tucson, Ariz., will get to see Mendez and Bogut, definitely on Thursday and perhaps head-to-head on Saturday. Mendez, the only player in the

NCAA this season to rank in the top 10 in scoring (23.6 points) and rebounding (10.5), leads Niagara (20-9) against third-seeded Oklahoma (24-7). Bogut and sixth-seeded Utah (27-5) start with No. 11 UTEP (27-7).

The Utes and Miners used to be conference foes, so they know each other well. Not so for Oklahoma of the Big 12 and Niagara of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

"There are kids on their team that are going to say, 'Coach, what conference are they in?' "Niaga-ra coach Joe Mihalich said. "So

hopefully, that'll work a bit in our

Austin Regional

Record: 25-5, Last 10: 7-8-2 Best win: 102-92 at Wake Forest on Jan. 20. Key players: 6 J. Leedick (22-6 pts., 417-3-pt Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G Janiel Ewing (15.1 pts.), 1.11 reb.), 1.11 reb., 1.11

2. KENTUCKY Record: 25-5. Last 10: 7-3.

Best win: at Louisville, 60-58, on Dec. 18.
Key players: G-F Kelenna Azubuike (14.5 pts., 352 3-pt pct.), F Chuck Hayes (10.8 pts., 8.0 reb.), G Rajon Rondo (7.9 pts., 3.4 asst.), G Patrick 352 3-pt nct.), F. Chuck Hayes (10.8 pts. 46.7 reb.). Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 7. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 6. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 9.3 sts.), 7. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 9

only four Syracuse players to earn Academic All-America honors and the first to be named to the team more than once.

Outlook: A tournament-savvy team with a veteran coach, the Orange have overcome a late season slump and are poised to make a run for another national championship.

5. MICHIGAN STATE

Record; 22-6. Last 16:8-2.
Best win: 77-64 vs. Wisconsin on Feb. 24.
Key players: C Paul Davis (11.7 pts., 7.3 reb.), G
Maurice Appr (13.6 pts., 87-8), T
Did you know?: 12 of the 17 Spartans are from
Michigan.

Michigan.

Outlook: If the Spartans can keep their games close, they could go a long way thanks to their .791 free-throw percentage, tied with Texas-El Paso atop the NCAA. 6. UTAH

Record: 27-5. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 69-58 over New Mexico on Jan. 22.
Key players: C Andrew Bogut (20.6 pts., 12.0 eb.), G Marc Jackson (10.7 pts., 3.3 reb., 3.8

reb.J. 6 Marc Jackson (16.7 jrts., 3.3 reb., 3.8 stay ou know? Over the past 10 seasons the Utes have the seventh best winning percentage in Division I.(77) with a 25-47 record. Andrew Bogut and a strong supporting cast, a trip the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 rebut e

Record: 18-12. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best win: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best vin: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best vin: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 9.
Best vin: 87-76 vs. Arizona

Outlook: The Stanford women's team is a con-tender for the NCAA title. This is not the year for the Cardinal men.

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE
Record: 22-10. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 80-55 over Arkansas on Jan. 15.
Key players: C Lawrence Roberts (17.0 pts.,
1.1 reb.). G Winsome Frazier (12.4 pts., 360 3-pt
Ct.). GF Shane Power (11.5 pts., 25 asrs).
Did you know?: Coach Rick Stansbury is first
oach to guide Buildogs to three consecutive

NCAA trips.

Outlook: The Bulldogs were 0-6 against Top 25 teams this year. Anything past the second round would be difficult to imagine.

10.10WA

Record: 21-11. Last 10: 6-4.

Record: 21-11. Last 10: 6-4. Best win: 76-71 vs. Louisville on Nov. 22 Key players: F Greg Brunner (14.5 pts., 8.3 reb.), 3 Adam Haluska, (14.5 pts., 400 3-pt pct.), Jeff Jorner (14.0 pts., 5.6 asst.). Did you know?: On Feb. 2, the Hawkeyes sus-ended their leading scorer Pierre Pierce, who

ason Williams (11.8 pts., 3.0 asst.). Dil you know?: Then known as Texas Western, coach Don Haskins' Miners beat Kentucky, 72-65, o win 1966 national title. It was the first time a earn that started five African-Americans had won the championship.

Outlook Hardly a deep team, Miners are still a langerous first-tall and ponent.

-round opponent.
12. OLD DOMINION

aangerous instruction opponent.

Record; 28.5. Last 10: 8.7.

Best wins 74-63 at NC-Willinington on Feb. 5. 8.1

reb., (6 Isalah Hunter (134 pts., 3.2 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.). The Second Dah (13.4 pts.) of the

Record: 24-6. Last 10: 7-3 exponent 10: 24-6. Last 10: 7-3 exponent 25: 7 exponen

often makes present the control of the top scorers in the country, and the Catamounts could be a handful for Syracuse in the first round.

14. NIAGARA

McCast Haney (15.5) tz. 8.3 reb. (5.2 ach Ingles (1.4) gats. 27 reb.). Colored are making their first KCA bournament appearance since 1973. Outlook: Cock A bournament appearance since 1973. Coultook: Cock A bournament appearance since 1973. Coultook: Cock A bournament appearance since 1973. Coultook: Cock A bournament appearance for the cock and the cock

A 'stacked, stacked bracket' with intrigue

Syracuse Regional champ will have to 'earn their way' to St. Louis

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR. The Associated Press

orth Carolina, Connecticut, Kansas and Florida are a formidable foursome at the top of the Syracuse Regional.

Throw in talent-laden teams liked Villanova, Wisconsin and North Carolina State, and this 16-team field shapes up as one of the toughest in recent NCAA tournament history

"This is a stacked, stacked bracket," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said Sunday after the NCAA tournament's 64 teams were announced. "Therefore, whoever gets to St. Louis is going to have to earn their way

The top-seeded Tar Heels (27-4) had its first 20-win season since 2000-2001 and finished alone atop the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season standings for the first time since 1993, but lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament semifinals.

"Earning a No. 1 seed is truly a reward for a fantastic season," coach Roy Williams said in a statement. "I am extremely happy for our seniors to make it to the NCAA tournament two years in a row after enduring a difficult first two years

The Tar Heels will face the winner of Tuesday's play-in game Friday in Char-lotte, N.C. Oakland (12-18), which won the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, will play Alabama A&M, the Southwestern

Athletic Conference champion in Dayton. With a victory, Carolina would face the winner of the Minnesota (21-10)-Iowa State (18-11) matchup.

There's also the possibility of an intriguing Elite Eight game, with North Carolina facing Kansas - the school Williams left to coach his alma mater in 2003.

"It would be a dream for me," Kansas se-nior guard Michael Lee said. "I want to play my former coach. I didn't think I would have a chance to. But if we get a chance to meet them, it would be fun

The Jayhawks (23-6), the No. 3 seed, open against Bucknell (22-9) at Oklahoma City. Kansas was ranked No. 1 in the coun-





Kansas coach coach Bill Self, left, has downplayed the potential Elite Eight matchup with former Kansas coach Roy Williams, right, now coaching No. 1 seed North Carolina.

try early on and No. 2 for most of the season but lost five of its last eight games, in-cluding the Big 12 semifinal to Oklahoma

"Carolina is not on my brain at all." Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We've got Bucknell and we've got Wisconsin or Northern Iowa if we're fortunate enough to beat Bucknell. That's all this team should be fo-

cused on and thinking about."
Wisconsin (22-8) lost to No. 1 overall seed Illinois in the Big Ten championship. while Northern Iowa (21-10) has won five

Defending national champion Connecticut, the No. 2 seed, opens against Central Florida (24-8) at Worcester, Mass. The Huskies (22-7) have won 10 of their last 12 and earned a share of the Big East regular-season crown — all while dealing with personal setbacks.

Star recruit A.J. Price is recovering from a brain hemorrhage he suffered in October. Leading scorer Rashad Anderson battled a life-threatening illness last month brought on by complications from a skin in-

"It's been hard," forward Charlie Villanueva said. "We've been through a lot and it's a blessing being a two seed. Without a doubt, it's toughened us up."

Next up would be the winner of the Charlotte (21-7)-North Carolina State (19-13)

State was ranked as high as No. 12 and started 10-1 this season, but lost nine of its next 12 before working their way back into

tournament contention.

"Win or lose, they can always remember how they were in a very tough spot and yet

they battled their way out of it," coach Herb Sendek said. "That's something that's going to stay with these guys for a

Florida (23-7), which beat Kentucky twice in eight days - to win the regular-season finale and its first SEC tournament title - opens against Ohio (21-10) in Nashville, Tenn.

"We're very, very excited about what happened today," coach Billy Donovan said. "But we've got to be able to take that next step and just focus on the NCAA tournament and getting ready to play.

The last time the Gators made the Final Four. also going through the Syracuse Regional, was in 2000, when they lost to Michigan State 89-76 in the national championship game. In the four years since, Florida hasn't gotten past the first round But the Gators are playing their best bas-

ketball of the season - winning seven in a row and allowing an average of just 56.4 noints during that span

The Florida-Ohio winner takes on whoever comes out of the Villanova-New Mexico game - one of the tournament's most intriguing 5-12 matchups.

Fifth-seeded Villanova played in the NIT the last five years, had an eight-game winning streak before losing to West Virginia in the Big East semifinals. 'Nova gained confidence late in the season with wins over then-No. 3 Boston College last month and then No. 2 Kansas in January

'I think it's helped us a lot to prepare for this particular moment, playing those tough teams," forward Curtis Sumpter said.

"I think we're in one of the toughest brackets out there

New Mexico (26-6) has won nine in a row and was a bit miffed at getting a No. 12 seed after winning the Mountain West Conference tournament.

"I thought we'd get an 11 or possibly a ," New Mexico coach Ritchie McKay said. "Twelve seeds are usually the last at-large (teams) in. I thought being 26-6 we deserved a little more favorable number

... but we'll just take what we got

Syracuse Regional

Record: 24-7. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 91-78 vs. Kentucky on Dec. 4. Key players: F Sean May (16.7 pts., 10.9 reb.), G Rashad McCants (15.8 pts., 2.8 asst.), G Raymond Felton (12.0 pts., 7.3 asst.), F Jawad Williams

Felton (12.0 pts., 7.3 asst.), F Jawad Williams (14.4 pts., 4.0 reb.). **Did you know?:** Roy Williams' 35 tournament wins is tied with Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton wills is tied with Okaliolina State's Eurie Sutton for most by a coach who hasn't won national little. Outlook: Powerful and deep, anything but a Final Four appearance will be a disappointment. Record: 22-7, Last 10: 8-2 Pectavity: 27, 6-64 10: 8-2

Record 2.7.1 LCONSTITUTE

Record 2.7.1 LCONSTITUTE

Rest with 73-64 all thisburgh on Feb. 26.

Key players FrC Josh Bönne (12.9 pt., 8.5 key players FrC Josh Bönne (12.9 pt., 8.6 key players FrC Josh Bönne (12.9 pt., 8.6 key players FrC Josh Bönne (12.9 pt., 8.6 key players Frc Josh Bonne (12.9 pt., 8.6 key players (12.9 pt.) Anderson (12.9 pt., 8.6 key players (12.9 pt.) Anderson (12.9 pt.) Anderson from the commercial from the players (12.9 pt.) Anderson from the players (12.9 pt.) And

Record: 23-6, Last 10: 5-5
Best wint 65-5 9 vs. Kentucky on Jan. 9, ts., place y layers: F Wayner Simlen (19.4 pts., 11.1 reb.), 6 Kelth Langford (14.7 pts., 2.8 reb.), 6 Agroth Wiles (20.9 pt., 3 ass.), 10.1 pts., 2.8 reb.), 6 Agroth Wiles (20.9 pt., 3 ass.), 10.5 pts., 2.8 reb.), 6 Agroth Wiles (20.9 pts., 3 ass., 2.9 pts., 2.9 pts., 3 ass., 2.9 pts., 2.9 pts.,

Record: 27.1 Last 10:9-1
Best win: 85-54 over Alabama, Feb. 5.
Rey players: 6 Anthony Roberson (18.6 pts., 2.4
asst.) 6 Matt Walsh (18.3 pts., 482 a-pt ptt.), F
Did you know? Denovan and Texas Feb.'s Bob
Knight are the only two active coaches to coach
and play in a Final Four.
Outlook: Could win a few. Could lose early.
This team is a mystery.

S. VILLANOVA

Record; 22-7. Last 10:8-2

Best win: 83-62 vs. Kansas on Jan. 22.

Key players F. Curtis Sumpter (16.2 pts., 7.4

reb), G Alian Ray (17.3 pts.)

The Williams knocked off four
Top 25 teams this season, including then-No. 2
Kansas.

Aansas.
Outdook: Villanova has jelled the past six weeks and the season shows it can play with the big boys, but a repeat of the Wildcats' 1985 championship magic is unlikely.

6. WISCONSIN

Record: 22-8. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 62-59 vs. Michigan State on Jan. 16. Key players: F Alando Tucker (15.0 pts., 6.7 eb.), F Mike Wilkinson (14.8 pts., 7.2 reb.), G reb.J., F. Mike Wilkinson (14.8 pts., 7.2 reb.), G Sharif Chambilos (7.7 pts., 2.9 set 2.1 m. State in jour lanew? Carbon (14.6 pts.) and a composition (14.7 pts.) sophomore (14.6 pts.) and a journer (14.7 pts.) sophomore (14.6 pts.) and a journer (14.7 pts.) sophomore (14.6 pts.) and o opponents or be govern in a fils.) George (14.8 pts.) sophomore (14.8 pts.) and o Best with (12.0 lts.) sold based in (15.8 pts.), 8.3 reb.), F Eddle Based in (15.3 pts.), 8.4 reb.), of Eddle Based in (15.3 pts.), 8.4 reb.), feet filed great filed in (14.8 pts.) feet filed great filed gr

reb.), F Eddie Basden (15.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G/F Brendan Plavich (14.1 pts.), Did you know? Plavich led the SEC with a .441 three-point shooting percentage while playing for Vanderbilt in 2001-02. Outlook: With a nice blend of inside-outside, Charlotte could catch a team or two napping, but the 49ers dropped their last three, which is

8. MINNESOTA Record: 21-10. Last 10: 6-4

Record: 21-10. Last 10: 6-4 Best win: 60-50 vs. Wisconsin on Feb. 5. Key players: G/F Vincent Grier (17.9 pts., 1.9 Htt), C Jeff Hagen (11.5 pts., 2.5 blk.), G Aaron Robinson (8.0 pts., 400 3-pt pct.). Did you know?: Before coming to Minnesota, oach Dan Monson led Gonzaga to the Elite

Record: 18-11. Last 10: 7-3.
Best Win: 63-61 at Kansasa n Feb. 19.
Best Win: 63-61 at Kansasa n Feb. 19.
Best Web, C Jarde Homan (134 pts., 8.2 reb.) 6 William (134 pts., 8.2 reb.) 6 William (145 pts., 4.9 ast.)
Bid you know? Only four players on lowa's rosDid you know? Only four players on lowa's rosOutlook: One win is possible for the streaky Cytones, who started the season 0-5. Anything

nore is hard to fathom.

10. N.C. STATE

Record: 19-13. Last 10: 6-4.

Record: 2:6. Last 10:5.1.

Rest wine 5:5-4 vs. Utah on Feb. 21:8.

Rey players: F Danny Granger 1(13) pts., 8.5.

Did you know?: The Lobbs have finished second in the nation in attendance five times, third Outlook: Lobbs beat a tough Utah team to earn a trip to the tournament and have the talent to stick around awhile.

Becord: 21:0 Leaf 10:8-2 or Feb. 2.

Becord: 21:0 Leaf 10:8-2 or Feb. 2.

Key players: G Mychal Green (14,7 pts., 3.8

Key players: G Mychal Green (14,7 pts., 3.8

Feb.), FSomy Troutann (126 pts., 3.8 reb.), Feb.

Leon Williams (120 pts., 3.8 reb.).

Review of the State of the

tickets," coach Bruce Weber said We talked about having a chance

to go to Indy, to go to Chicag

We're pleased with that. At the same time, I told the kids I was

part of a No. 1 seed at Purdue and

we got unset in the second round

So you can't take anything for granted."

Don't worry about that, Deron

'We're not Purdue We're try

ing to write our own stories," he

Home on the Plains

As if they needed more of an advantage, the Illini will be close to home throughout the tournament

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

llinois couldn't have a better draw unless the NCAA tournament was moved to Assembly Hall

The top-ranked Illini drew the overall No. 1 seed and the Chicago Regional on Sunday, essentially giving them homecourt advantage for the entire NCAA tournament. All three rounds are within a three-hour drive of the campus, and the regional finals are in Chicago, where most of the players grew up.

"It gives us a great advantage," Roger Powell Jr. said. "Our fan support is so strong. Even if we went far away, I'm sure would have came. This just makes it easier on their gas money, you might say

Illinois set its sights on a No. 1 seed months ago. with Nick Smith saying in October, "It's St. Louis or bust." Which No. 1 really didn't matter, though the Illini know their geography as well as anybody else.

And the Illini made it easy on the selection committee, going 32-1, spending almost the entire season at No. 1 and winning the Big Ten title and conference tour-

Even a loss in the regular-season finale didn't hurt them. though it had seemed to reinforce what doubters had been saying all along: The big men are weak there is little, if any, depth and the Big Ten isn't the ACC. The Illini may have kept their No. 1 ranking last week but 22 voters nreferred North Carolina

But Illinois won the Big Ten tournament Sunday after North Carolina lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC semifinals. The Tar Heels finished the year 27-4. All the other top schools finished with at least four losses

'We put ourselves in the posi wanted to be in. All we have to do is take advantage of it," said James Augustine, the most valuable player in the Big Ten tournament. "We're happy with

the position we're in."

They should be. While other tournament teams will be spending much of their time traveling Alabama-Birmingham was sent to Boise, Idaho, for the open-ing round — the Illini could hitch rides and still make it with time to

Indianapolis, where the Illini

44 They are definitely feeding us to the lions.

> Tom Green Fairleigh Dickinson coach

will play 16th-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday, is a two-hour drive. Chicago is less than 21/2 hours away, and St. Louis is on the state line, a mere three-hour jaunt.

And talk about fan-friendly. When Illinois played in the Wood en Classic in December, Illini fans overran the city. Chicago is merely an extension of Champaign, home to eight players and the largest alumni concentration. On Sunday, the entire arena

was awash in orange except for two small sections. They're not shy about their allegiance, either. They even booed the clips of Wisconsin fans singing their fight

song that flashed on the score-"Hopefully our people have been on the phones, buying up

said. "We're going to be focused. We've got Fairleigh Dickinson first. We're going to concentrate on them. Great, just what the Knights wanted to hear. Fairleigh Dickinson won the Northeast Confer-

Williams said

ence championship to a spot in NCAA tournament for the first time in seven years. The Knights (20-12) knew they'd be facing a No. 1 team; they just didn't think it would be Illinois.

"They are definitely feeding us to the lions," Fairleigh Dickinson coach Tom Green said Illinois isn't the only team in

ne Chicago Regional with friendly travel schedule. Oklahoma State was tapped as the No. 2 seed after winning the Big 12 tournament, and drew Oklahoma City

for the opening round. The Cowboys (24-6) play 15th-seeded Southeast Louisiana (24-8) on Friday

"We really wanted to go to Okla-homa City. We have a very good chance there," Daniel Bobek chance there," Daniel Bobek said. "If we make it to Chicago, it is the same thing that we faced last year, when we had to go play in New Jersey, which is like play ing St. Joe's at home.' For those not keeping score

Cowboys knocked off



beat Wisconsin 54-43 in the title game of the Big Ten tournament.

top-seeded Saint Joseph's in the regional finals to advance to the Final Four. 'I think we have a good brack-

et, considering the other teams in the Big 12," Joey Graham said "We have a great opportunity."

While the Illini and Cowbovs had no complaints with their seed-ings, Boston College was more than a little bitter. Back when they were 20-0 and ranked third in the country, the Eagles were in line for a No. 1 seed.

But after going 4-4 in their last eight games — including a loss to

West Virginia in their first game of the Rig East tournament - the Eagles found themselves seeded fourth in the Chicago regional. Worse, they were shipped to

Cleveland for the opening round instead of to nearby Worcester, Mass. When the Eagles saw their No. 4 seed, they sat stone-faced while students watching the selection show with them booed.

Boston College will play 13th-seeded Penn (20-8) on Thursday.

Chicago Regional

1. ILLINOIS

Record: 32-1. Last 10: 9-1.

Best win: 91-73 vs. Wake Forest on Dec. 1.

Key players: G Luther Head (16.1 pts., 425 3-pt pct.), G Dee Brown (14.2 pts., 494 FG pct.), G beron Williams (12.4 pts., 66 asst.). pc.1. G bee Brown (142 ps. ,984 FG pc.1., 6 bee Brown (142 ps. ,984 FG pc.1.) of life you know? Four caches (cu ul-reson, Lon Knuger, Bill Self, Weber) have led Illinois to the Outlook After a magical season, if this experienced, talented team doesn't make it to the Termia Four, the 2 Could Albert 187 Fd. Becord, 24-6. Leat 187 Fd. Becord, 24-

nis player.

Outlook: With a few breaks, OSU has the horses to make it back to another Final Four. The Cowboys lead the nation in three-point shooting (42 percent).

(42 percent).

3. ARIZONA
Record: 27-6. Last 10: 9-2.
Rest with 91: 92 vs. Washington on Jan. 27.
Are players: G Salin Stoudamire (B&2 pts., 530
Are players: G Salin Stoudamire and Fore at the top
Outlook: With Stoudamire and Frye at the top
Will be a disconnection of the Elite Egist.

of their games, anything short of the Elite Elipit will be a disappointment. QUELEE

Record: 24-4.1ast 19: 6-4.

Becord: 24-6. Last 19: 6-4.

Betwine: 56-9 to, Synactor, on Feb. 19.

Jared Dudley (16.2 pts., 7.6 reb.).

Jared Dudley (16.2 pts., 7.6 reb.).

Jared Dudley (16.2 pts., 7.6 reb.).

By Stimen Has led Bostor Crowns, one Big East Tournament title accessor crowns, one Big East Tournament title and four postseason turnament between the state of the Stimen Has Bostor Crowns, one Big East Tournament title and four postseason turnament between 20-9.

Still, they should be favored to reach Sweet 16.

Record: 24.7. Last S. ALASAMA Best win: 98-40 set Miscissippi State on Jan. 18. Key players: 66 Kennedy Winston (18.1 pts. 2.4 asst.), 6 Earnest Shelton (16.4 pts. 2.1 asst.), 7 Did you know? As a player on Alabama's NO NCAA. Sweet 16 team, Gottried set a VOIAM with eight 3-bointers in a win over Vanderbilk. anderbilt. Outlook: Talented team could reach Sweet 16,

Outlook: Talented team could reach Sweet 16, but don't look for much more STATE

Record: 20-9. Last 19:8-2.

Best with: 61-59 vs. Alabama on Feb. 22.

Record: 20-9. Last 19:8-2.

Record: 20-9. Last

LSU great Pete Maravicn, is a waik-on-guaru or Outlook. Lots of promise but little production from the Tigers, who will have to struggle to make it to the Speed Siters.

Record: 26:7, Last 10:9-1.

Best win: 7:6 ys. Creighton or Feb. 12.

Best win: 7:6 ys. Creighton or Feb. 12.

Feb. (a Jamaal Tatum (12.1 pts, 22 asst), 6 Stet-son Hairston (94 pts. 2.3 asst). Anamed Missouri Valley Conference player of the year each of last two gesacops.

wo seasons. Outlook: With surprise run to Sweet 16 in 2002 and losing by a point to Missouri and Alabama in first round last two years, Salukis are not to be taken lightly.

taken lightly.

Record: 29.9. Last 18: 75.48

Rest win: 75-61 vs. Oklahoma State on Jan. 17.

Rey players (2) Daniel Gibson (1.45 pts., 403-91

Key players (2) Daniel Gibson (1.45 pts., 403-91

Kider (1.08 pts., 5.6 reb.).

Did you know?: Buckmar's Ather won two

Did you know?: Buckmar's Ather won two

for the Longhorns golf team with Ben Crenshaw

and Tom Rife.

The Company of the Company of

Record: 24-b. Last 10: 9-1.

Best win: 62-60 at UTEP on Feb. 12.

Key players: F Nick Fazekas (21.5 pts., 9.4 reb.),

Kevinn Pinkney (12.4 pts., 7.6 reb.), G Ramon
essions (9.2 pts., 5.3 asst.).

Sessions (9.2 pts., 5.3 asst.).

Did you know?: In only second NCAA appearance ever last year, Wolf Pack stunned No. 7 seed Michigan State and No. 2 seed Gonzaga before falling to Ga. Tech in Sweet 16.

Outlook: Underrated Wolf Pack shocked field last year and could pull another surprise against 10. ST. MARY'S

The Control of the Co

Best win: 86-56 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay on

Jan. 15.

Key players: G Ed McCants (17.4 pts., 2.8 reb.), F Joah Tucker (15.2 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Boo Davis (10.4 pts., 3.3 reb.).

Did you know?: McCants, the Horizon League Player of the Year, has made at least one player of the Horizon League player of the Year, has made at least one season.

Onlink: Fared poorly against big brother Wisconline basek and against big brother Wisconline Canada (19.8 pts.)

eason.

Outlook: Fared poorly against big brother Wisonsin and Kansas during regular season. A rst-round upset over Alabama would be a

Record: 20.8. Last 18: 9-1.
Best wins 67: 99 vs. 51. Joseph's on Jan. 25.
Key players G im Begley (13.8 pts. 5.4 reb.), G
brakim Jaaker (13.8 pts. 2.7 asst.), F Steve DamDid you know? In 1979, Quakers rode upset
wins over North Carolina, Syracuses St. John's to
101-67, by Magic Johnson-led Michigan State.
Outlook: Only 1-7 in NCAA pames under coach
against Boston College, but no mor close call
10.7 by Magic College, but no mor close
10.7 by Magic College, but no mor close
10.7 by Magic Magic

Record: 24-7. Last 10: 8-2.

Best win: 84-60 at Cal State Fullerton on Jan. 20.

Key players: F Spencer Nelson (16.4 pts., 8.1
eb., 4.8 asst.); G Jaycee Carroll (14.6 pts.); F Nate
arris (13.0 pts., 6.1 reb.).

Did you know?: Last year's Utah State_team Did you know?: Last year's Utah State team was denied a tournament birth despite a Top 25 ranking and a 25-4 record.

Outlook: A good mix of youth and veterans, the Aggles could catch Arizona napping.

15. SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

15. SOUTHEAST LOÙÍSIANA Record: 24-8. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 55-48 at Boise State on Nov. 21. Key players: F Ricky Woods (17.2 pts., 6.9 reb.), 3 Jonathan Patton (11.8 pts., 3.2 reb.), C Nate Lof-on (11.5 pts., 7.2 reb.).

Did you know?: The Lions have the sixth-best coring defense in the nation, allowing just 55.8

scoring defense in the nation, allowing just 55.8 points per game, experience in the brumament or even against a big-conference team this season, the Liona sea | long-shot for a single win. Record: 20:12. Last 10:7-3. Record: 20:12. Record: 20:12. Last 10:7-3. Record: 20:12. Last 1

Chaney returning for NIT

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA John Chaney will return to coach Tem ple in the NIT

Chanev was suspended for the final five games of the season after ordering rough play from one of his players, who subse-quently broke the arm of St. Joseph's senior John Bryant.

Chaney, 73, first suspended himself for one game before the school extended the punishment to three games after the extent of Bryant's injury was discovered. The Hall of coach then banned himself from the Temple sidelines for the Atlantic 10 tournament

The school announced Monday that Chaney would be on the bench when the Owls (16-13) play Virginia Tech (15-13) in a first-round game Tuesday night.

Top assistant Dan Liebovitz went 3-2 in Chaney's absence.

Liebovitz said Monday that
Chaney has been at every home
practice and "pretty much has
been his usual self." Liebovitz
said the players have moved on.

"In their eyes, it's a dead issue at this point," he said. "We've done everything we can as a university to spread our sym-

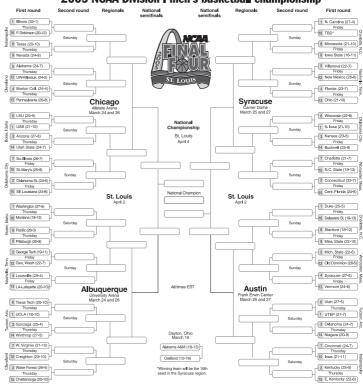
pathy and our apologies." Telephone messages left for Chaney and athletic director Bill Bradshaw were not immediately

The Hawks (19-11) also are in the NIT and play Hofstra (21-8)

on Wednesday.

In a 63-56 loss to Saint Joseph's on Feb. 22. Chanev used Nehemiah Ingram — a player the coach called a "goon" — to "send a message" by committing hard fouls. Ingram fouled out in four minutes including the hit on Bryant that left the senior sprawled on the court for several minutes. An MRI revealed he had a broken arm

2005 NCAA Division I men's basketba championship



NCAA: Poor play late costs Wake, Boston College

NCAA, FROM BACK PAGE

the Conference USA regular season and tournament titles. Instead, the weekend's upsets turned everything upside down.

It's the sixth time in eight years two teams from the same conference were seeded No. 1. The last time was 2003 with Oklahoma and Texas of the Big 12. No conference has ever had three No. 1s and for the first time ever two No. 1s will be playing in the same venue

Duke and North Carolina will both play Friday in Charlotte. Duke opens against Delaware State (19-13), while North Carolina (27-4) meets the winner of Tuesday's play-in game between Oakland (12-18) and Alabama A&M (18-13).

Oakland is the only team in the field with a losing record.

"We try to keep people as close to home as possible, and that starts on Line 1, Bowlsby said.

Kentucky drew a No. 2 seed after losing to Florida in the SEC championship and will play in nearby Indianapolis. Louisville drew the No. 4 seed in Albuquerque and opens in Nashville, Tenn.

"People inside here were saying, 'We're definitely a 2, maybe a 1," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "I said, 'Look, don't be surprised if we're a 3.' I had a gut feel-

Other teams were not so lucky.

Bowlsby said Wake Forest could have sneaked back into a top seed if Duke had lost the ACC title game. Instead, the Demon Deacons were given a No. 2 seed and sent to Cleveland for a contest with Chattanooga (20-10) and a possible regional final showdown with Washington.

Seventh-ranked Boston College (24-4), the Big East regular-season co-champ, was shipped to Cleveland, where it faces Ivy League champ Pennsylvania. Boston College is No. 4 in Chicago.

"I'm disappointed, because we had it in our hands, being 20-0, and let it slip away," Eagles forward Jared Dudley said. "But you can cry about it, or you can do something about it."

Two other Big East schools, Connecticut (22-7) and Syracuse (27-6), will play in Worcester, Mass. Connecticut, the defending national champ, is the second seed in Syracuse, while the Orange are No. 4 in Austin

The committee can't put more than two teams from the same conference at one

Among those not invited were Saint Joseph's (19-11), DePaul (19-10), Maryland (16-12) and Notre Dame (17-11). With the Irish missing the cut and 15-13 Indiana falling off the bubble, it is the first time since 1972 that the state of Indiana was shut out of the tournament.

The Illini won't get any frequent flyer miles in this tournament, with the first and second rounds in Indianapolis, the regional in Chicago and the Final Four on April 2 and 4 in St. Louis.

Illinois opens Thursday against North east Conference champion Fairleigh Dickinson. They were followed in the Chicago regional by second-seeded Oklahoma State, which won the Big 12 tournament; No. 3 Arizona, the regular-season Pac-10 champion; and Boston College.

Washington opens Thursday in Boise against Montana, the Big Sky champion. Gonzaga is the No. 3 seed in the region and plays Winthrop.

After North Carolina, which lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC semifinals and Connecticut, Kansas is No. 3 and Florida is No.

Along with Duke and Kentucky in the Austin bracket are third-seeded Oklahoma

and Syracuse

The Big East and Big 12 each has six teams in the field, one short of the record, while the ACC, SEC and Big Ten have five apiece. The other multiple bid leagues were Conference USA and the Pac-10 with four; the Missouri Valley with three; and the Big West, Mountain West, West Coast and Western Athletic Conference with two.

The last of the at-large teams were all No. 11 seeds: Alabama-Birmingham (21-10), Northern Iowa (21-10) and UCLA

What! Who's No.1?

Committee says Stanford isn't worthy of a top regional seeding

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER The Associated Press

LSU and Tennessee tried to make it easy on the selection committee for NCAA women's baskethall tournament

If only the other top teams had been as cooperative.

By winning so often against top-caliber competition, LSU and Tennessee were obvious choices as No. 1 seeds in the tournament bracket that went up Sunday. It took careful examination and considerable debate to come up with the two others: Michigan State and North Carolina

Uh. notice anybody missing That would be Stanford, the No. 1 team in The Associated Press poll. For the first time since it happened to Texas in 1984, the nation's top-ranked team is not a No. 1 seed in the NCAA field.

The disappointed Cardinal 29-2 with 20 straight victories, did their best to be diplomatic. Still, it wasn't what they had expected after sweeping the regular-season and tournament championships in the Pac-10, a league that ended up with as many NCAA teams (5) as the more highly regarded Southeastern Conference

"Honestly, a long time ago I stopped trying to figure out the committee and seeds," said Stan-ford coach Tara VanDerveer, whose team reached the regional finals last year as a No. 6 seed.

'What's much more important to me is the team being healthy. There's no sense in overanalyzing the thing.

Stanford wasn't healthy the last time it was seeded No. 1, in 1998 and was stunned by 16th-seeded Harvard in the first round

LSU was the overall No. 1 seed and was followed by Tennessee, Michigan State and North Caroli na. Baylor also got consideration

for a No. 1 before ending up as the highest-ranked No. 2 seed. Stanford came next

"We snent more time on the No. 1s than any year I've been on the committee," said Lynn Parkes, who chairs the group, "When we got down to those last two, there wasn't much to separate them.

Stanford's seeding wasn't the only thing that raised questions.

The committee decided to send Rutgers to the first- and second-round site at Connecticut, where the teams had a flare-up after the Big East championship game last week

2005 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship



Rutgers guard Cappie Pondexter pointed at IIConn coach Geno Auriemma after hearing some thing she felt was objectionable late in the game. Auriemma insisted he was talking to an official.

Connecticut and Rutgers won't play each other because they're in different regionals, but hard feelings might linger.

"I don't know, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to see their thinking," Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer said. "After all, we just came back from there. There was a lot of controversy there, so why not send them there again Who knows what they are think-

Making LSU and Tennessee the top seeds was something the committee didn't have to defend.

LSU, which spent more time at No. 1 in the poll than anyone else this season, went 14-0 in the Southeastern Conference, then lost to Tennessee by two in the finals of the SEC tournament.

Tennessee lost only to LSU in

the conference season and played the nation's toughest schedule

Two teams from the same conference have been No. 1 seeds 10 times previously, most recently in 2003. Tennessee and LSU also were the two that year.

"It's great for the program," said LSU coach Pokey Chatman, who got the Lady Tigers to the Final Four last season while subbing for ailing Sue Gunter, "I can remember wondering if you were going to get in or wondering if you were going to be a 1, 2, 3 or 4 seed. It was nice knowing that for a small amount of time, you were concerned about being the (ton)

Interestingly, LSU and Tennessee will start the tournament on the Lady Vols' court in Knoxville. which could make that site a hot ticket. LSU is the top seed in the Chattanooga Regional, while Tennessee was placed in the Philadelphia Regional.

Michigan State is No. 1 in the Kansas City Regional, North Carolina heads the bracket for the Temne Regional

women's scrapped the East, Mideast, Midwest and West designations in favor of the city hosting the regional semifinals and finals.

Of course, there could be a North Pole Regional and Michigan State would be excited. This is the first No. 1 seed for the Spartans, who shared the Big Ten title with Ohio State and won the conference tournament. haven't played in a week and are eager to get started.

"These kids are grumpy and "Inese kids are grumpy and tired of sitting around," Michigan State coach Joanne P. McCallie said. "They're ready to play. It doesn't matter who else is in the bracket."

The bracket actually is downright tough. Stanford is the No. 2 seed, Connecticut is seeded third and Kansas State is the No. 4 seed. Connecticut, winner of the last three national champion-ships, won the Big East tournament this year. Kansas State was the Rig 12 tournament runnerun Michigan State is the only No. 1 seed that plays on Saturday, fac-

ing Alcorn State in Minneapolis. The three others play on Sunday

— Tennessee vs. Western Carolina, LSU vs. Stetson and North Carolina vs. Coppin State.

Before this year, Michigan State's highest seed had been No. 4 and that was back in 1991.

"I really wondered how they'd weigh what we've done this year against the tradition that we don't have in this program, compared to some other schools," McCallie said. "If you look at what we did this year, it's a hands-down case. u look at it in terms of tradition, it gets a little murky.

In the end, however, it cleared right up.

'There are times that's there's just not very much that separates teams," said Parkes, the associate athletic director a Memphis. "But we have to come to a decision and our decision was that North Carolina and Michigan State were the (final) No. 1 seeds

Marshall ties mark for threes

League-record 21 three-pointers lift Raptors over 76ers

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Donyell Mar-shall took what the Philadelphia 76ers gave him.

And took And took And took Repeatedly left open in the cor-Marshall made ner, Marshall made 12 three-pointers to tie Kobe Bryant's NBA record and the Toronto Raptors hit a league-record 21 in their 128-110 home victory over

the 76ers on Sunday night. "They are predicated on stopping vou in the paint and making you shoot outside jump shots,' Marshall said. "When you have a coach that



Marshall

preaches style they're going to keep doing that no matter what.

Marshall was 12-for-19 from three-point range to tie the mark set by Bryant for the Lakers against Seattle in January 2003.

"The basket just looked humongous," Marshall said. "My teammates kept telling me to shoot it. They kept saying no matter what play we run we're going to look for you in the corner."

The former Connecticut forward had a career-high 38 points. the most ever by a Toronto re-

"You can't give a great shooter like that open looks like that. It's Philadelphia's Webber said. "I told him in the first quarter if he gets those looks he'd better go for the record and he did "

Toronto 21-for-34 on threes broke the NBA record of 19 set by Atlanta against Dallas in 1996. The teams combined for an NBA-record 31 three-pointers, breaking the mark of 29 set by Denver and Seattle in 1997, and the Rantors matched the club record for points.

After tying the record with 2:52 left, Marshall missed his last two shots and left to a standing ovation with 17.5 seconds to go

Jalen Rose added 25 points for the Raptors, and Morris Peterson had 20. Allen Iverson led the 76ers with 32

At Auburn Hills, Mich., the Detroit Pistons and Utah Jazz also set an NBA record

The teams combined for 18 points in the fourth quarter to break the record of 19 set by Miami and Toronto in the fourth quarter on Feb. 2, 2004. The Pistons won 64-62.

The 126-point total is the sixth lowest in NBA history. The league low is 119 by Boston (62) and Milwaukee (57) in 1955.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference											
x-Miami x-Detroit x-Boston Cleveland Washington Chicago Indiana Orlando	W 48 38 34 33 32 31 31	16 23 29 27 27 28 31 31	Pct .750 .623 .540 .550 .550 .533 .500	8½ 13½ 13 13 14 16 16							
Philadelphia New Jersey Toronto New York Milwaykoo	30 28 27 26 25	33 36 36 35 36	.476 .438 .429 .426 .410	17½ 20 20½ 20½ 20½							

Western Conference W L 48 15 47 15 42 19 41 21 39 25 37 25 35 27 32 29 Pct .762 .758 .689 .661 .609 .597 .565 Sacramento Houston Memphis L.A. Lakers

Denver Minnesota 32 30 32 32 28 35 23 37 L.A. Clippers Portianu Utah Golden State New Orleans x-division I

x-division leader Sunday's games Bullas 102. Minnesota 93 Houston 111. Sacramento 96 LA. Clippers 83, Chicago 78 LA. Clippers 83, Chicago 78 New Jersey 98. Orlando 82 Boston 105. Washington 101 Toronto 128, Philadelphia 110 Seattle 90. New York 80 Cleveland 98, Indiana 80 Phoenix 106, Monday's games Boston at Charlotte

Monday's gan Boston at Charlotte L.A. Lakers at Washington Detroit at Atlanta Milwaukee at Miami Milwaukee at Midiii Portland at Memphis New Orleans at San Antonio Houston at Golden State Tuesday's games Utah at Cleveland

Utah at Cleveland
LA. Lakers at Philadelphia
Miami at New York
Seattle at Chicago
Minnesota at Dallas
Orlando at Sacramento
Wednesday's games
Toronto at Boston Toronto at Boston Utah at Indiana Chicago at New Jersey Washington at Atlanta Seattle at Detroit Cleveland at Milwaukee Memphis at New Orleans Portland at Houston Minnesota at San Antonio Charlotte at Denver Orlando at L.A. Clippers

Sunday

Mavericks 102, T-wolves 93

DALLAS — Howard 7-14 0-2 15, Nowitzki 9-22 3-3 21, Henderson 3-6 1-4 7, Finley 4-8 0-0

10. Terry 8-17 5-5 22, Daniels 8-9 8-10 16, Brad-10. Terry 8-17 5-5 22, Daniels 8-9 8-10 16, Brad-10. Amsteroin 96 17-1, Totals, 3-6 2, 5-5 16, 16-20 16

Rockets 111, Kings 96

HOUSTON — McGrady 11-23 0-0 22 oward 5-13 0-0 10, Yao 5-9 7-8 17, Sura 0-3 0 5-13 0-0 10, 480 5-9 7-8 17, 50ra 0-3 Vesley 9-12 0-0 21, James 7-9 3-4 20, Mu-1-3 4-4 6, Barry 4-5 3-3 12, Padgett 1-4 Weatherspoon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-81

0-0 3, Weatherspoon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-81 17-19 111. SACRAMENTO — Stojakovic 8-18 1-1 21, Songaila 5-10 0-0 10, Skinner 3-7 0-2 6, Mob-ley 6-24 0-1 20, Bibby 5-16 1-3 12, Ostertag 1-1 0-0 2, Thomas 4-95-9 13, Evans 1-2 0-0 2, Will-iamson 0-2-2-2 2, House 3-5 0-0 8. Totals 38-94 9-18 96.

Clippers 83, Bulls 78

CHICAGO - NOciol 27, 04 5, Davis 1-4 2-2 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 2-2 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 2-3 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 0-3 0-0 0, Griffin 0-0 0-0, Totals 31-90 8-10 78, 1-2 10 1-2 10, 1-2

LA. Cippers 25 5 17 15—5 Three-Point Goals—Chicago & 22 (Hinrich 4-7, Gordon 2-5, Nocioni 1-2, Duthon 1-6, Pilat 6-00x8ki 0-2), L. Cippers 9-3 (Simmons 6-1, Cimpers 9-1), Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists

Pistons 64. Jazz 62

UTAH — Harpring 5-14 0-0 10, Kirilenko 11-19 4-4 27, Borchardt 0-2 0-0 0, Bell 3-9 0-0 6, McLeod 0-6 4-5 4, Okur 2-9 3-4 7, Humphries 2-4 0-2 4, Eisley 1-6 2-2 4, Giricek 0-5 0-0 0. To-tals 24-74 13-17 62. tals 24-74 13-17 62.

DETROIT — Prince 2-9 2-2 6, R.Wallace 4-13 1-1 10, B.Wallace 3-6 0-0 6, Hamilton 6-18 3-5 15, Billups 4-11 4-5 12, Arroyo 0-4 3-4 3.

McDyess 3-9 4-4 10, Hunter 1-3 0-0 2, Dupree 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-73 17-21 64, 15 21 12-62 Uash 17 19-20 19-20 19-20 19-20 19-20 6-64 Three-Point Goals—Utah 1-7 (Kirlienko 1-1-8 Bell 0-1, Giriceko 0-2, McLeod 0-2), Detroit 1-18 (R. Wallace 1-5, Arroyo 0-1, Prince 0-2, Hunter 0-2, Billups 0-4, Hamilton 0-43, Fouled Out-Detroit

14 15 21 12-62

Detroit

19 20 6-64

Three-boint Goals—Utah 1-7 (Kirlienko 1-2, Bello 1, Giricek 0-2, McLeod 0-2), Petroit 1-18

(R. Wallace 1-5, Arroyo 0-1, Prince 2-7, Hunter 0-2, Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Cy. Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Cy. Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Review 1-1, Fouled 1-1, Assists—Utah 1-1, Function 1-1, Fu

Nets 98, Magic 82

NEW JERSEY — Carter 10-19 12-16 33, Col-ns 1-5 2-2 4. Krstic 2-8 5-8 9, Vaughn 11-17 NRP IEEE CAPE 10 3 12-163 IL OO 20 0 12 15 16 12 15 16 IL OO 20 IL OO 20 16 IL OO 20 IL OO 20

eattile 0-1, Kasún 0-1), Fouled Out-None, bounds—New Jersey 49 (Kidd 10), Orlande (Howard 8), Assists—New Jersey 19 (K 10), Orlando 21 (Francis 10), Tr (Cals—Krstlc, Francis, Howard, Ejected—Fr (S. A.—14,007, (17,248)).

Celtics 105, Wizards 101

WASHINGTON — Jeffries 3-7 7-9 13, Jamison 6-13 2-2 14, Haywood 3-7 1-4 7, Arenas 7-22 10-13 25, Hughes 11-20 3-6 26, K.Brown 1-4 0-0 2, Thomas 2-2 1-2 5, Blake 2-5 3-5 9, Profit 0-1 0-0 0, Ruffin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-81

Profit D. 10-0 0, Rumin 19-0 vs. v. tunnas 3-20. 18957004 — Awalker 5:12, 12:11, Fierce 7:185720 (Awalker 5:12, 12:11, Fierce 7:185.23 (LaFrentz 8:146-01:18, West 0:40-0 0.00 (Awalker 5:12, 12:18) (Awalker 5:12, 12:18) (Awalker 5:18) (Awalker 5:1 Alfen 1-1, Davis 1-4, Banks 0-1, A.Walker 0-1, West 0-2, Payton 0-2), Fouled Out – None. Re-bounds – Washington 61 (Jeffries 16), Boston 57 (A.Walker 12), Assists – Washington 13 (Arenas 6), Boston 25 (Davis 6), Total Fouls – Washington 18, Boston 29, Technicals – Jami-son, Pierce. A – 17,190, (18,624).

Raptors 128, 76ers 110

Maptors L28, / bers 110
PHILADE.PHA — Knorer 5-11-11.5 Webber 9-19-5-10. Household — Knorer 5-11-15. Webber 9-19-5-10. Household — Knorer 5-13-2-0.0 Hausehold — Knorer 5-13-2-0.0 Ha 4/-95 13-13 120. Philadelphia 31 29 17 33-110 Toronto 38 35 36 29-128 Three-Point Goals-Philadelphia 10-25 (Korver 4-7, Iverson 3-7, McKie 1-2, Webber 1-2, Rogers 1-3, Iguodala 0-1, Davis 0-1, Green 31 29 17 33-110 28 35 36 29-128

0-2), Toronto 21-34 (Marshall 12-19, Peterson 4-6, Alston 2-3, Rose 2-4, Bonner 1-2), Fould 0ut – None. Rebounds-Philadelphia 46 (Jackson 8), Toronto 50 (Bosh, Marshall 10), Assists-Philadelphia 30 (Iverson 8), Toron-to 22 (Peterson 8). Total Fouls-Philadelphia 13, Toronto 11. A —19,800. (19,800).

SuperSonics 90, Knicks 80

Super Suffice 3, 14 (4.8) (1.8

New York
Three-Point Goals—Seattle 7-23 (Levis 3-7.
Allen 2-8, Ridnour 1-1, Radmanovic 1-4,
RMurray 0-1, Danlels 0-2), New York 6-21
(T.Thomas 4-8, Marbury 2-5, Hardaway 0-2,
Crawford 0-6), Fouled Out-Fortson. Re-bounds—Seattle 55 (Evans 16), New York 47
(K.Thomas 9), Assists—Seattle 16 (Danlels (N. Horidas 9). Assists—Seattle 16 (Dames 7), New York 14 (Marbury 5). Total Fouls—Se attle 22, New York 25. Technicals—Seattle De fensive: Three Second, Fortson, T.Thomas A—19,763. (19,763).

Cavaliers 98, Pacers 86

1-5, Pavlovic 0.1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-9 (James 1-0-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, Foundation 1-1-1, Foundation

Suns 106, Nuggets 101

PHOENIX — Richardson 3-9 4-6 11, Marion 8-20 2-2 19, Stoudemire 5-12 3-5 13, J.Johnson 9-17 5-6 23, Nash 10-14 4-5 25, Hunter 3-4 1-4

Total Fours—Proenix 17, Deriver 22, cals—Richardson, McCarty, Denver sive Three Second. A—19,566. (18,227)

Iditarod leader Sorlie pulls into Unalakleet

The Associated Press

UNALAKLEET, Alaska - Norwegian Robert Sorlie was the first musher to reach this town on Alaska's Norton Sound coast, but he was nowhere near comfortable with his lead entering the final leg of the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

"It's still a long way to Nome," the 47-year-old firefighter from Hurdal said after pulling in to the checkpoint, which marks the start of a 260-mile loop along the wind-scrubbed coast to the finish

Sorlie said he was worried about the whereabouts of his nearest competitors: veterans Ramy Brooks, runner-up to Sorlie in th 2003 race, and four-time champion Martin Buser. Brooks left the earlier checknoint at Kaltag at 9:42 a.m. Sunday, only an hour after Sorlie, for the 90-mile run to Unalakleet, followed by Buser 70 minutes later

Tennessee, UMass, Tulane fire men's basketball coaches

Tennessee's Buzz Peterson and Massachusetts' Steve Lappas were fired after failing to get

Sports briefs

their teams into the NCAA men's tournament during four years at their schools. Peterson's dismissal was an-

nounced Monday in a statement by Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton. The secretaries in the basketball office said Monday they were told to clean out the desks of Peterson and his

The Vols finished 14-17 overall and 6-10 in the Southeastern Conference this season after losing to Kentucky in the second round of the league tournament. It was Peterson's second losing season in Knovville leaving him with a 61-59 record in his four years.

Lappas, hired in 2001 to turn around Massachusetts' faltering program, was fired Monday after the Minutemen finished 16-12 the first winning season under Lannas, who compiled a 50-65 record in four years.

"This isn't a real positive day, but one we felt was necessary athletic director John McCutcheon said in announcing the deci-

UMass was eliminated in over time by LaSalle during the first-round of the Atlantic 10 tournament last week and failed to get an NIT bid.

With pressure mounting, UMass restructured Lappas' contract last year to add incentives based on attendance and the team's record.

A postseason bid would have given Lappas a bonus amounting to two years of his \$185,000 annual base pay. But the school also in-cluded a clause allowing it to buy him out for half his annual salary.

Tulane also fired its coach. Shawn Finney, after five seasons. Finney was 60-86 with the Green Wave, including 10-18 this season. He had one winning season and failed to take Tulane to postseason play.

Gooden arrested, charged after domestic complaint

TAMPA. Fla. — Dwight Gooden was arrested early Sunday for allegedly punching his ex-wife in the face, police said.

The former All-Star pitcher was charged with domestic vio-

lence battery and was being held Sunday without bond at Hillsborough County Jail. It wasn't immediately known if he had an attornev.

Jail officials said Gooden, a spe cial assistant for the New York Vankees was scheduled to make his first court appearance on Mon-

day morning. He was arrested by Tampa police at 12:44 a.m., according to jail records. Tampa police spokes-

woman Laura McElrov said the dispute occurred at the home Monique Moore Gooden's ex-wife Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone said the team had no com-

Patriots sign WR Dwight

FOXBORO, Mass. - The New

ment

England Patriots signed free agent receiver/returner Tim Dwight to a one-year contract on Sunday. Dwight played last season with

the San Diego Chargers when he had just two receptions for 31 yards while battling toe and hamstring injuries. He also returned 50 kickoffs for a 24.4-yard average and one touchdown on an 87-vard return against the New Vork Jets

Johnson outruns Busch brothers in Vegas Harrington

Hendrick driver stops Roush run with UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 win

CUP SERIES

BY JENNA FRYER

LAS VEGAS — Three races this season, three battles between Hendrick Motorsports and Roush

Racing.
Give Hendrick the edge, two victories to one, after Jimmie Johnson stopped the Roush stranglehold at Las Vegas Motor Speedway by winning the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 on

Sunday.

But Roush came out a little cleaner after Johnson and runner-up Kyle Busch, another Hendrick driver, both failed post-race
inspection. The roof on Johnson's
Chevrolet was too low, and the
rear quarter panel on Busch's car
was too high.

was too nign.

There were no immediate penalties announced, but NASCAR could elect to dock points from both drivers. Doing so would cost Johnson the 15-point lead he has over reigning Nextel Cup champion Kurt Busch

on Kurt Busch.

But Johnson is
points racing, yet,
focusing instead
on spending the
\$30,000 bonus he
earned for taking
over the points
lead.

"I can have a little fun at the blackjack table," Johnson said. "But I'm not concerned about the points lead yet."

Johnson, who won for the 15th time in his career, has victories in five of the last nine races, dating to last season. He hasn't finished worse than sixth since October, and this victory put him right

back where he spent most of last season — on top of the points. This latest victory helped Hen-

drick Motorsports claim a piece of the track in the desert that Roush Racing has dominated with five victories in the first seven

> races. But with Johnson and Hen-

drick teammates
Kyle Busch finishing second and Jeff Gordon fourth, the
Roush dominance is over. Kurt
Busch carried the Roush flag

with a third-place finish.

Hendrick now has two wins this season — Gordon won the season-opener at Daytona — and Roush has one with Greg Biffle winning at California.

"It's going to be a fun battle all the way to the end," Kurt Busch said. "You could say that Hendrick and Roush definitely have a distinct advantage over the other groups."

Johnson's win also ruined what could have been a banner day for the Busch brothers, Las Vegas na-

As Johnson was driving his Chevrolet to Victory Lane, Kyle was treasuring his second-place finish

"This is as good as a win as far as I'm concerned," he yelled to his crew.

"I had a bunch of guys put money on me, so it would have been cool to have Jimmie pull over and let us win," said Kyle, who went off at 60-1 before the race. "But, hey, next year I'll probably have a lot lower odds."

Harrington earns first victory on PGA Tour

The Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — As Padraig Harrington mounted a charge in the Honda Classic, birdies came so easily he began thinking about shooting 59. He settled for his first PGA Tour title instead.

Harrington won when Vijay Singh missed a 2½-foot putt to bogey the second playoff hole Sun-

Ranked eighth in the world, the Dublin native is believed to be the first Golf roundup

player from the Republic of Ire land to win a tour event.

He figured his countrymen watched on TV. "Tm sure I kept a few pubs open tonight." Harrington said.

open tonight," Harrington said.
"It's very good to be the first Irishman. We have produced a lot of competitive players."

An assistant to Irish President Mary McAleese phoned with congratulations. Harrington caught a break with Singh's miss, but he earned the title by shooting a 9-under-par 63 in the final round.

9-under-par 63 in the innai round.
Down seven shots when the
day began, Harrington birdied 10
of the first 13 holes and briefly
took sole possession of the lead.

"I had not looked at a leader board," he said. "I was just thinking about shooting 59. ... I'm thinking, I'm 10 under. It's there. How much more work do you have to

When consecutive bogeys ended his bid to tie the PGA Tour record, Harrington began to focus on winning the tournament. He was in a four-way tie for the lead when he finished nearly 90 minutes ahead of the last group, and earned a playoff with Singh and Joe Ogilvie when all three finished at Jahunder 724.

The par-4 No. 18 was used for both playoff holes, and Har-rington scrambled to get up-and-down for par each time. Ogilvie was eliminated when he bogeyed the first extra hole, and Singh uncharacteristically failed on the verge of victory.

He missed a 15-foot birdie try on the first playoff hole that would have given him the win. After Harrington made a 4-foot putt to par the second extra hole, Singh pushed his par try and the ball rimmed out.

"I thought it was a gimme," Harrington said. "If I had done it, I would be distraught, but thankfully Vijay has won enough that he shouldn't let it get to him."

Smyth wins SBC Classic

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — Ireland's Des Smyth won his first Champions Tour title, closing with a 4-under 68 for a one-stroke victory over D.A. Weibring and Mark McNulty in the SBC Classic.

Smyth finished with a 5-under 211 total on the Valencia Country Club course. McNulty shot a 74, and Weibring had a 72.

Saunders returns to major-league mound

The Associated Pres

Tony Saunders wasn't worried about the results. After all he's been through, just throwing a few pitches off a major league mound was quite an accomplishment.

Trying an improbable come back after twice breaking his left forearm while pitching, Saunders worked one inning for the Baltimore Orioles during their 5-3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals in a split-squad game Sunday.

"I know it's one little insignificant inning in a game, but it felt good," said Saunders, who pitched in a game for the first time since breaking his arm with Class-A St. Petersburg on Aug. 24, 2000. "I know I can do that now," he added.

Saunders allowed two runs, three hits and one walk in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. After the game, he was reassigned to Baltimore's minor league camp. Saunders, who first broke his arm on May 26, 1999, while pitching for Tampa Bay, was in camp on a minor league contract with an invitation to spring training. St Louis' Sott Rolen broke out

of an 0-for-11 slump with his first home run. Sammy Sosa hit his second homer for Baltimore, a towering shot to right. Elsewhere, Randy Johnson,

Derek Lowe and Mike Hampton all had outstanding outings.

At Kissimmee, Fla., Johnson made his second start with the New York Yankees, throwing four scoreless innings in an 8-2 victory over the Houston Astros, his former team.

"I think this was a good barome-

ter for me because the biggest thing was that I was able to go from two innings to four innings without any problems." Johnson said. "By the time I felt like I was just getting my work in during pulsat start, I was done I wasn't happy with everything I threw, but I felt like I was starting to settle in a little bit more."

At Vero Beach, Fla., Lowe allowed one run and three hits in five innings, and the Los Angeles

Spring training

Dodgers got home runs from Jeff Kent and Norihiro Nakamura in a 7-2 victory over the Florida Marlins.

Lowe has started three games this spring, giving up only one run and seven hits in 12 innings. "I'm probably like everyone

"I'm probably like everyone else, two or three weeks away," he said. "I probably couldn't throw 100 or 110 pitches effectively right now. But with three more starts, I think I'll be ready."

At Jupiter, Fla., Hampton had his third straight strong start, allowing one hit in four innings for the Atlanta Braves, who lost 7-3 to a St. Louis Cardinals split squad. Always a good hitter, he even connected for a two-run homer off Mark Mulder.

Hampton allowed his first two runs in nine innings this spring, but only a fourth-inning homer by John Mabry was earned. Opposing hitters were a combined 1-for-16 against the left-hander in his first two spring outings.

"I felt pretty good, not as sharp as the previous two outings." Hampton said. "On the whole it was a pretty good effort, not great. We're rebounding pretty

In other games

Mets 7, Tigers 6: At Lakeland, Fla., Kris Benson had his second solid outing and Chris Woodward tripled twice, moving closer to earning a utility spot with New York. Luis Garcia homered off Detroit closer Troy Percival in the ninth to break a 6-6 th

Twins 4, Red Sox 2: At Fort Myers, Fla., Kyle Lohse threw three solid innings and Joe Mauer had two hits for Minnesota. Boston starter Matt Clement gave up three runs and seven hits in four innings.

Blue Jays 5, Devil Rays 0: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Dave Bush pitched two-hit ball for four innings, and Alex Rios had two hits and scored three times. Tampa



Arizona Diamondbacks center fielder Jose Cruz Jr. robs Milwaukee Brewers' Lyle Overbay of a hit during the third inning of an exhibition game Sunday at the Brewers' spring training facility in Phoenix.

hitless innings.

Indians 10, Reds 1: At Saraso-

ta, Fla., Scott Elarton allowed only two singles in four scoreless innings. Elarton, the Indians' No. 5 starter, has allowed just one run in three starts spanning nine innings this spring. Ken Griffey Jr. made his third appearance as a designated hitter for Cincinnati and singled in four plate appearances. Mariners 7, Rangers 6: At Surprise, Ariz., Alfonso Soriano homered to snap an 0-for-17 start this spring and Richard Hidalgo hit a

pair of two-run shots for Texas. Seattle's Raul Ibanez finished 2-for-3 to raise his spring training average to .519 (14-for-27).

Royals 3, Giants 3 (10): At Scottsdale, Ariz., Aaron Guiel, Emil Brown and Ruben Gotay hit consecutive home runs in the fourth inning for Kansas City.

SPORTS



Seeds of contention









Top: Illinois' Deron Williams directs his teammates during the championship game of the Big Ten tournament Sunday. Illinois got the top seed in the Chicago region. Above left: Oklahoma State's Terrence Crawford celebrates the Cowboys' Big 12 Tournament victory. The Big 12 got six NCAA berths. Center: Florida's Matt Walsh reacts near the end of a 70-53 rout of Kentucky in the SEC Tournament championship. Above right: Duke's Shavlik Randolph and the Blue Devils earned a No. 1 seed by beating Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament final.

Late upsets help throw NCAA tournament selections into chaos

BY MICHAEL MAROT The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - The NCAA selection committee expected to struggle in seeding this year's 65-team tournament field. Every weekend upset made the task even more daunting With a record number of schools topping 20 wins, a rash

of surprise finishes and a continually changing picture, nothing was decided easily. Not even choosing the top four seeds — Illinois, North Carolina, Duke and Washington. The 10 committee members debated into the final hour

Sunday about how the brackets should look, and finally settled on making Washington a No. 1 seed.

"You want to make sure you get it right on Line 1 but you also want to get it right on Lines 2, 3 and 4," selection committee chairman Bob Bowlsby said. "If you don't, then the fairness of the tournament is then really called into question

Bowlsby's fifth year on the committee might have been

He acknowledged teams such as Kansas and Gonzaga

■ Illinois gets closest thing to home-court advantage, Page 31 **■** Formidable foursome ton Syracuse regional, Page 30 Louis ■ Austin sets up Duke, Kentucky final, Page 29

may have deserved better than a No. 3 seed. Others, like Maryland and Buffalo, maybe could complain they should have been included.

Then there was Bowlsby's own school - he is the athletic director at Iowa - which leapfrogged Indiana into the tournament even though the Hoosiers won three more Big

And yet it was the late-game results that created the "It was a big headache," Bowlsby said. "We had about

five or six different scenarios that involved about four teams and a lot of them were either-or type situations."

The top three seeds — Illinois (32-1) in the Chicago re-ion, North Carolina (27-4) in Syracuse, N.Y., and Duke (25-5) in Austin, Texas — were no surprise.

The Illini won the Big Ten regular season and then the tournament title and were ranked No. 1 most of the season. The Tar Heels and Blue Devils split the regular-season and tournament titles in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which had the nation's highest conference RPI.

But Washington (27-5), which ranked No. 14 last week, took the No. 1 seed in Albuquerque. Many thought that spot could have gone to a third ACC school, Wake Forest; Southeastern Conference regular-season champ Kentucky (25-5); or sixth-ranked Louisville (29-4), which won

SEE NOAA ON PAGE 32

No. 1 Stanford doesn't get top women's seed Page 33

